

U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, DC 20530

Supplemental Statement**Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended**For Six Month Period Ending 06/30/2012

(Insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant

(b) Registration No.

Spring O'Brien & Co., Inc.

5872

(c) Business Address(es) of Registrant

30 West 26th Street, 4th Floor

New York, NY 10010

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following?

(a) If an individual:

(1) Residence address(es) Yes ☐ No ☐(2) Citizenship Yes ☐ No ☐(3) Occupation Yes ☐ No ☐

(b) If an organization:

(1) Name Yes ☐ No ☒(2) Ownership or control Yes ☐ No ☒(3) Branch offices Yes ☐ No ☒

(c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in Items (a) and (b) above.

IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4, AND 5(a).3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C¹, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.Yes ☐ No ☒If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position	Date Connection Ended
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(b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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5. (a) Has any person named in Item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, identify each such person and describe the service rendered.

(b) During this six month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes ☐ No ☒

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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(c) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or Connection	Date Terminated
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(d) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their connection with any foreign principal during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or Connection	Foreign Principal	Date Terminated
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6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(b) of the supplemental statement?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒
If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal

Date of Termination

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal(s)² during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒
If yes, furnish the following information:

Name and Address of Foreign Principal(s)

Date Acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principal(s)² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

St Vincents & The Grenadines
Turismo Chile

10. (a) Have you filed exhibits for the newly acquired foreign principal(s), if any, listed in Item 8?

Exhibit A³ Yes ☐ No ☐

Exhibit B⁴ Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

- (b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during this six month period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

² The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9)). A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

³ The Exhibit A, which is filed on Form NSD-3 (Formerly CRM-157) sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

⁴ The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form NSD-4 (Formerly CRM-155) sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

See attached.

12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity⁵ as defined below? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates, places of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits your foreign principal(s)? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, describe fully.

⁵ The term "political activity" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION**14. (a) RECEIPTS-MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies.⁶

Date	From Whom	Purpose	Amount
01/01-06/30/2012	Turismo Chile	for services rendered/expenses incurred	176,487.13
01/01-06/30/2012	St Vincents	for services rendered/expenses incurred	520,402.09

696,889.22

Total

(b) RECEIPTS - FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fundraising campaign⁷, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D to your registration? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date _____

(c) RECEIPTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value⁹ other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal	Date Received	Thing of Value	Purpose
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6, 7 A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, moneys, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fundraising campaign. (See Rule 201(e)).

8 An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fundraising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

9 Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

15. (a) DISBURSEMENTS-MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☒

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To Whom	Purpose	Amount
See 14a			

Total

(b) DISBURSEMENTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Recipient	Foreign Principal	Thing of Value	Purpose
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(c) DISBURSEMENTS-POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value¹¹ in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or Thing of Value	Political Organization or Candidate	Location of Event
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10, 11 Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks" and the like.

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. (a) During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials?¹²

Yes ☒ No ☐

If Yes, go to Item 17.

(b) If you answered No to Item 16(a), do you disseminate any material in connection with your registration?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes, please forward the materials disseminated during the six month period to the Registration Unit for review.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

St Vincents & The Grenadines
Turismo Chile

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- ☒ Radio or TV broadcasts ☒ Magazine or newspaper ☐ Motion picture films ☐ Letters or telegrams
☒ Advertising campaigns ☒ Press releases ☒ Pamphlets or other publications ☐ Lectures or speeches
☒ Other (specify) Events, Press trips

Electronic Communications

- ☒ Email
☐ Website URL(s): _____
☐ Social media websites URL(s): _____
☐ Other (specify) _____

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- ☐ Public officials ☐ Newspapers ☐ Libraries
☐ Legislators ☐ Editors ☐ Educational institutions
☐ Government agencies ☐ Civic groups or associations ☐ Nationality groups
☐ Other (specify) _____

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

- ☒ English ☐ Other (specify) _____

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☒ No ☐

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act?

Yes ☒ No ☐

¹² The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

VI - EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

(Print or type name under each signature or provide electronic signature¹³)

July 30, 2012

/s/ Nasik Hasan

eSigned

¹³ This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.



MONTHLY ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR TURISMO CHILE
Public Relations, Trade & Advertising Program
January 2012

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Press Releases

Collected information from various hotel partners for the "New Properties in 2012" release. Approved and distributed release on January 20.

Worked with A. Dulanto on official statement regarding wild fires in Torres del Paine, and temporary closing of the park.

Individual/Group Press Trips

Two individual journalists were supported in this period with several challenges in scheduling presented by the fires in Patagonia that resulted in the closure of Torres del Paine and Explora: Rocky Casale from the UK (January 2-10 for *T Magazine*, *Departures*, *AOL* and others) with stays in Patagonia at The Singular plus international and domestic air, activities and accommodations in Santiago arranged by TC; and Jackie Caradonio for the *Robb Report*, January 26 to February 8, also in Patagonia (The Singular and Tierra Patagonia), with international and domestic air and activities and accommodations in Santiago and Colchagua Valley arranged by TC.

Agency contacted A. Sassoon at Dos Lagos on behalf of writer James Sturz (and his writer wife Paula de la Cruz) to facilitate accommodation March 15-19 for a feature on the "take-over" lodge for the *Robb Report*. They then began to correspond directly to see if this is possible. We also began to discuss other aspects of the trip – including Easter Island for *The Atlantic* – reaching out to Kristina Schreck with regards to providing accommodation at the Hangaroa as well as a night or two at The Aubrey in Santiago.

The agency and TC pushed ahead with plans for a group press trip in March for four to eight writers – with the itinerary expected to encompass Santiago, the Lake District and the journalists' choice of either Chiloe or Patagonia. Agency posted aspects of the trip – planning for ten days on the ground not counting travel days – on the Society of American Travel Writers (SATW) newsletter and began to canvas media contacts as part of the initial recruiting effort. Detailed itinerary developed by A. Saenz of TC.

Surfer Magazine

Surfer Magazine possible feature spread (Puerto Montt/Chiloe coast); two media rates (party of five) was delayed at least until the fall 2012. Photographer and *photo editor* Chris Burkard was having trouble scheduling the participation of Chilean surfer Ramon Navaro and noted that the costs of chartering a boat with a captain may prove to be prohibitive. Other logistical possibilities may be explored for later in the year including a camper van instead of boat.

PGA Tour, March 5-11

The agency was standing by to review press list – if one exists – with the idea of inviting one or two writers to extend their trip for the prospect of generating destination coverage.

Lollapalooza Festival, March 31-April 1

The agency was ready to review any existing media list with the idea of inviting select writers to extend their trip to visit Easter Island with one of the attending music acts, e.g., Foo Fighters, before or after the festival. The agency was on the alert for media opportunities with music, culture, arts and travel writers.

Equitrekking

The agency agreed to revisit this possible shoot for PBS – to be filmed around equestrian activities in Chile – in 2nd half 2012 (even though the production costs appear to be prohibitive).

Media Relations/News Bureau

Anna Watson, freelance writer for *Travel + Leisure*, was scheduled to visit Chile but had to cancel because of her husband's health. Based on follow up information we provided on new properties she spoke with editor Brooke Porter who indicated the magazine plans to cover Chile in the near future. She is also talking to *TIME* and has pitched a few Chile story ideas for the magazine's spring Style & Design issue. Separately she is also pitching the magazine a Chile travel and food piece.

Based on the agency's and TC's many conversations with Jerry Eskanazi, guest lecturer on a SilverSeas cruise calling in Valparaiso, we turned down his request for extensive hosting via Philip Brown of Brown & Hudson (a tour operator who wants to join JE's post-cruise tour). Jerry initially asked only for ideas – not hosting – and then also asked for a meeting with President Pinera while suggesting his stories might appear in *The New York Times* and *Condé Nast Traveler* (which normally do not accept stories from writers who receive assistance).

Agency continued to try to recruit a journalist for the Antarctic Dream voyage on February 15th. Several writers were pursued – with the hope of signing a top producer on short notice.

Roberto Mitrotti, producer of Luxury Wine Tours video vignette series on Compulsivetraveler.tv and other sites – with possible exposure on Wealth TV – first discussed the idea of producing a show about Chilean wine country with J-PC in NYC. We felt the investment was not warranted at this juncture unless it were to receive the support of Wines of Chile.

Kevin Raub, writer for Lonely Planet, rented a car for March travel throughout Chile. Organized rental with Europcar with the help of A. Dulanto.

Two participants on the August 2011 press trip published new pieces: Olivia Katrandjian placed on ABC News's "top off-beat destinations" list which named the Atacama the #1 place to go in 2012 and Jim Farber's story on Santiago appeared in *The New York Daily News*. The agency continues to monitor for clips and coverage.

Group Press Trip: March

An initial itinerary was developed by A. Saenz for ten days in Chile for 4 – 8 writers who will split their time between Santiago, the Lake District and the journalists' choice of either Patagonia or Chiloe depending on their interests/outlets. Among the journalists being considered:

- **Brian Major** – Latin America editor of *Travelpulse.com*, *Vacation Agent* and *Agent@Home* wants to visit Chile in 2012 to write several destination feature articles. We're exploring the prospect of his being part of the group media trip.
- **John Oseid** – a top journalist for *Condé Nast Traveler*, *About.com* (romance/ honeymoon), *GQ*, *Bon Appétit*, *Sherman's Travel* and others.
- **Kayleigh Kulp** – she writes about spas, health and wellness and food and wine – her outlets including *Food + Wine*, *Wine Spectator*, *Wine Enthusiast*, *Miami Herald*, *Los Angeles Times* and others; will revisit prospects with her for Chilean summer.
- **Emma Soley** – *Indagare* (luxury lodges/hotels, food and adventure, Patagonia), *Town & Country*, *Flare* magazine (www.flare.com) in Canada and others.
- **Joe Yogerst** – *Islands*, *Sur y Centro*, *DestinAsia*, *Modern Bride*, *San Diego Union-Tribune*, *Forbes*, *National Geographic Traveler* and others.
- **Ted Alan Steadman** – three potential assignments include the inflight magazine of Alaska Airlines (a LAN mileage plan partner), *Dreamscape Destinations* (Canada), and *Global Traveler*.
- **Nicole Whitney Sobel** – interested in "the other Patagonia" for outlets including *MSNBC.com*, *Sherman's Travel*, *TravelGirl*, *GoNomad.com*, *Budget Travel* and others.
- **Elyse Glickman** – *Jewish Exponent*, *CSQ (C Suite Quarterly)*, *The Tasting Panel* et.al.
- **Susan Breslow** – *About.com*, *Jetsetter* and others
- **Lori Henry** – columnist for *TripAtlas.com*, *Reader's Digest*, *VIA destinations*, *VIA magazine* (the AAA Traveler's Companion), *FLARE*, *Western Living*, *Fodor's*, *Spa*, *USAToday.com* and others.
- **G.B. Gallagher** - *National Geographic Traveler*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Virgin Airlines*, *AAA Living Magazine* and others
- **Iris Brooks** – *World & I*, *Washington Times* and others
- **Andrew McCarthy** – the agency remains in touch with the US TV and film actor who writes for some big outlet media and has editorial interests in the Atacama, Easter Island and Patagonia.
- **Steven Winston** – has interest from *Smithsonian Magazine* for a story in 2012 (not yet confirmed) and may be able to get assignments from others like *AAA Going Places*.

Partner Requests

The agency liaised extensively in January with Lanny Grossman, PR for The Singular, Patagonia, to support and extend the trips of Jackie Caradonio and Rocky Casales, both of whom originated with Lanny.

We met at our offices in NYC with Maureen Poschman and her colleague Sarah-Jane Johnson who were planning to host Jackie Caradonio later in the month or early February at Tierra Patagonia. Other prospects for support – including the March group trip – were discussed.

Liaised with Kristina Schreck to get wheels in motion for James Sturz and Paula de la Cruz on Easter Island and potentially also in Santiago.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

Royal Tour

The agency learned that Peter Greenberg's planned meeting with President Pinera on January 5 in Santiago had been postponed due to the President's trip to Africa.

Top Chef

The priority based on the detailed breakdowns of requirements and costs is to send an "offer letter" to Magical Elves, the production company, to trigger negotiations.

Born to Explore on ABC

We pushed forward to arrange a later date (April or May) for the ten-day shoot in Chile for host Richard Wiese and his crew of four others – with the focus on Santiago, areas within reach of Santiago (possibly Horcon traditional fishing village), and the Atacama's Atacamenos community and cultural traditions. The focus of the show is exploring culture – and the goal of the shoot is to capture two or three half hour segments for broadcast starting in September or later in the fall. Host Wiese appears periodically on ABC's "Good Morning America."

TRADE RELATIONS

Coop Programs

Agency continued discussions with tour operators to develop Coop programs for 2012. Programs were submitted by Goway and discussions were held with LATOUR and Travel Impressions. Agency set up a conference call with Cris Luna for early February with Joe Gorga, Senior Director Latin America of Travel Impressions, to brief them on suggested itineraries.

FAM Trip –Wines of Chile

Agency were contacted by Gail Thornton of Wines of Chile, via Turismo Chile, to contact leading tour operators to participate in a FAM trip to Santiago and the wine region from March 10th to March 18th. Once the full itinerary is formalized agency will contact all the key Chile TO's to get as many as possible to participate.

Virtuoso

Agency submitted details for Turismo Chile to attend the three regional Virtuoso meetings scheduled for late January/early February. Agency continued discussions with Virtuoso regarding the 2012 program. Turismo Chile confirmed that the budget for the Virtuoso 2012 marketing program should not exceed \$100,000.

USTOA

Following USTOA, agency submitted a report detailing how Turismo Chile can assist the TO's with building their Chile business.

2012 Trade Plan

Based on the meetings at USTOA, agency has requested proposals from some of the potential partners that could be included in the final 2012 Travel Trade program.

ADVERTISING

- Develop and present comprehensive overview of 2011 U.S. campaign for Turismo Chile (sent 1.24)
- Organize details and hand-off responsibility for fulfillment of Sweepstakes prizewinner trips (*Saveur* and *Outside*) to A. Saenz
- Correspond with G. Gelmi, re: documentation for media billing. Prepare paperwork and issues of magazines to send to Chile
- Prepare and send proposed media plan for 2012 to new TC client, A. Munoz
- Meeting with *Travel + Leisure* to discuss potential TC participation in 2012 Global Bazaar event
- Assess potential of Delta in-flight marketing program
- Ongoing discussions with various publications regarding possible inclusion in TC 2012 advertising program

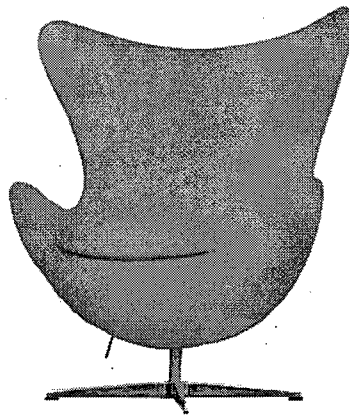
CLIENT RELATIONS

- Agency team members participated in calls with Turismo Chile and other execs
- Agency liaised with TC partners and individual public relations teams
- Agency assisted with invoice and budget adjustments

MISCELLANEOUS

- Contacted moving company for quote to build new crates for pod and hold it in warehouse until May. Began research on museums where pod could potentially be donated.
- Contacted partners (ProChile, Puro Chile, American Airlines, etc.) to gauge interest in distributing Chile's *View Magazine*. Sent desired number of shipment for each partner to TC.
- Held in-person meeting with public relations team for Tierra Hotels to discuss current and upcoming press trips, and where we could support each other.

SPRING O BRIEN



MONTHLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
FOR TURISMO CHILE
FEBRUARY 2012

Public Relations, Trade & Advertising Program



TurismoChile



MONTHLY ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR TURISMO CHILE
Public Relations, Trade & Advertising Program
February 2012

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Individual/Group Press Trips

The agency continued media outreach for the group trip – tentatively scheduled for March 15 or 16 through the 26th or 27th – with four participants confirmed. LAN media request forms submitted middle February to TC who sent them on to LAN – and we also sent them later in the month to LAN Chile directly.

We further facilitated discussion between writer J. Sturz and A. Sassoon of Dos Lagos (with visit tentatively scheduled for March 15-19 for a feature in *Robb Report*) and with K. Schreck for Hangaroa on Easter Island (scheduled after Dos Lagos visit), and sent LAN media forms. Sturz and his writer spouse Paula de la Cruz agreed to handle their accommodations in Santiago – and travel from Argentina to Chile – with TC approaching LAN Chile for domestic air (including Santiago to Easter Island) and international air. Despite TC's and the agency's best efforts, LAN's slow response made it necessary for agency to purchase outbound international tickets for these A list journalists or risk losing them (with the pair's assignments including *The Atlantic*, *The Robb Report*, *Tablet Talk*, *Fathom* and others). LAN ultimately did provide the other necessary flights.

Prior to this the agency prepared a procedures document outlining an approach for obtaining tickets from LAN we believed would improve the process in everyone's best interests.

Media Relations/News Bureau

We supplied story suggestions on Santiago and a link to Santiago Adventures bicycle tours to Andrew Buckley, producer of a pair of public television shows in Boston for children – in support of an upcoming trip with a crew sponsored by Australis Cruceros.

The agency supplied suggested story ideas and links to affordable accommodations to blogger Renee King for her May 7-16 trip to Santiago and Easter Island with her daughter for her budget blog "A View to Thrill" – ("sample the world at a fraction of the price").

Chicago Sun Times music, arts and travel columnist ("Detours") and staff writer David Hoekstra asked if we could obtain a complimentary or media rate ticket on LAN Chile for him to attend the Lollapalooza Festival in Santiago end of March/beginning of April. We put out the initial feelers and tried to make this happen – and discussed it directly with Megan Kat at LAN Chile. She suggested an approach but then was not available for follow up. David's intention was to use his time in Santiago to compare the festival there to the one in Chicago – and to write another piece about the nightlife, arts and culture scene in Santiago for his youthful audience. It became clear that we were not going to be able to support his request.

Journalist Margaret Loftus (a contributor to *National Geographic Traveler*) asked us to put her in touch with representatives of one or two lesser-known ski resorts in Chile (i.e., not Portillo) for a roundup of "underrated" ski properties or regions for CNN.com. Liaising with TC for suggestions, we also put Margaret in touch with Kristina Schreck so she could learn more about Valle Nevado (which she asked about). We learned from KS that ML may participate in a Patagonia and wine country bicycle tour in November 2012 (from Santiago Adventures) – to assess its inclusion as one of *National Geographic Traveler's* "Tours of a Lifetime" for 2013.

Beyond Portillo and Valle Nevado, TC (AS and AZ) made some excellent suggestions including ski resorts further south in Chile, e.g., Chillan (www.skichilan.cl), Pucon (www.skipucon.cl) and Osorno (www.volcanosorno.com), as well as Corralco (www.corralco.com/sitio/ where a new lodge is being built near the Lonquimay Volcano close to Temuco; Antillanca (www.antillanca.cl) located inside Puyehue National Park by Casablanca Volcano; and El Arpa Ski (www.skiarp.com) with accommodations located an hour way in Los Andes. This would make a good news release for the winter season – including several ski packages to offer a bookable component.

We reached out to editor Brooke Porter at *Travel + Leisure* – to follow up on previous discussions with senior editor Clara Sedlak and contributor Anna Watson about new properties in Chile, offering to assist with info, story ideas, contacts in Chile, etc. Brooke mentioned T + L plans to cover Patagonia in the near future based on the many new developments there.

Agency continued to try to recruit a journalist for the *Antarctic Dream* voyage on February 15 – right up to the last minute. Despite interest (from such cruise writers as Susan Farlow and Fran Golden), suitable media were not available on short notice.

Agency provided Becca Hensley – contributor to *National Geographic Traveler*, *Toronto Star*, *Fodor's*, *Austin American Statesman*, *Spa* and others – with information on noteworthy spas at the Hotel Antumulal, Alto Atacama and Hangiroa for the research she was conducting on South American spas.

We also supplied several story ideas and background to Elaine Glusac, a freelance writer planning on visiting Patagonia (to be hosted or provided with a media rate by Tierra Patagonia and possibly The Singular), in March. Her outlets include *The New York Times*.

Nancy Novogrod, editor in chief of *Travel + Leisure*

The agency reviewed and made initial comments on itinerary suggestions for Nancy's visit to Santiago in April and supplied TC with a draft copy of an itinerary developed by Tourism New Zealand for a writer visiting New Zealand for *Forbes Life* – as a possible template to follow in the event that a comprehensive itinerary and suggestions were needed for Novogrod's visit.

Sea Trade Shipping Conference in Miami in March

The agency reviewed and made comments and suggested edits to the press release TC and partners drafted for distribution at the SeaTrade (Shipping) Conference in Miami in March. We also planned to review the list of media in attendance – to recommend those we think TC should invite to its cocktail event at the booth it is sharing with other Chilean authorities.

Group Press Trip – Mid-March

Tim Smith, editor of *Luxury Latin America*, has repeatedly requested airfare to Chile to continue what he describes as the "best coverage of luxury hotels anywhere." On our declining – based on our and TC analysis of the site – he asked to join group trip. We also declined at this time.

The agency worked to finalize plans and participants for the March press trip – with departure from the US set as the middle of March. Four writers (below) were tentatively confirmed with specific arrangements to be completed first week March. Brian Major noted he will need to return to NYC from the Lake District on Day Eight, with the other three deciding to continue on to Patagonia (rather than Chiloe). With TC, we began to discuss accommodations including prospects of the Noi and The Aubrey in Santiago as well as The Singular, Tierra Patagonia, Patagonia Camp and even Patagonia Sur for the three writers continuing to Patagonia.

- **Brian Major** – Latin America editor of *Travelpulse.com*, *Vacation Agent* and *Agent@Home* wants to visit Chile in 2012 to write several destination feature articles
- **John Oseid** – a top freelance writer whose outlets include *About.com*, *Cigar Aficionado*, *Blackbook*, *Forbes Life*, *Elite Traveler*, *Sherman's Travel*, *Huffington Post* and others
- **Joe Yogerst** – freelance writer with such outlets as *Islands*, *Sur y Centro*, *DestinAsia*, *Modern Bride*, *San Diego Union-Tribune*, *Forbes*, *National Geographic Traveler* and others.
- **Elyse Glickman** – a freelancer who covers food and beverage, romance and travel for such outlets as *Jewish Exponent*, *CSQ (C Suite Quarterly)*, *The Tasting Panel*, *Tribe*, et.al.

Individual Journalists (Updated but also includes those in January report) with whom we're exploring future prospects:

- **Joyce Gregory Wyels** – *Américas Magazine* – California-based freelancer contributes regularly to this scholarly publication which delves deeply into Latin American cultures while evoking a sense of place. Might be worth revisiting if she can add other outlets added to the mix
- **Lisa Rojak** – she writes for such outlets as *Fox News Latino*, *Ocean Home Magazine*, *Real Eats* (Barbara Fairchild editor), *Wine Enthusiast*, et. al
- **Marybeth Bond** – writes for *USAToday.com* and several blogs worth considering
- **Iris Brooks** – *World & I*, *Washington Times* and others
- **Andrew McCarthy** – the agency remains in touch with the US TV and film actor who writes for big outlet media and has editorial interests in the Atacama, Easter Island and Patagonia. *Scheduling has been problematic*
- **Steven Winston** – has interest from *Smithsonian Magazine* for a story in 2012 and may be able to get assignments from *AAA Going Places* and others
- **Lori Henry** – columnist for *TripAtlas.com*, *Reader's Digest*, *VIA destinations*, *VIA magazine* (the AAA Traveler's Companion), *FLARE*, *Western Living*, *Fodor's*, *Spa*, *USAToday.com* and others.
- **G.B. Gallagher** - *National Geographic Traveler*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Virgin Airlines*, *AAA Living Magazine* and others
- **Kayleigh Kulp** – writes about romance, spas, health & wellness, food & wine for *Food + Wine*, *Wine Spectator*, *Wine Enthusiast*, *Miami Herald*, *Los Angeles Times* and others
- **Emma Sloley** – *Indagare* (luxury lodges/hotels, food and adventure, Patagonia), *Town & Country*, *Flare magazine* (www.flare.com) in Canada and others.
- **Ted Alan Steadman** – three potential assignments include the inflight magazine of Alaska Airlines (a LAN mileage plan partner), *Dreamscape Destinations* (Canada), and *Global Traveler*.
- **Nicole Whitney Sobel** – interested in "the other Patagonia" for outlets including *MSNBC.com*, *Sherman's Travel*, *TravelGirl*, *GoNomad.com*, *Budget Travel* and others.

ADDITIONAL SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR DISCUSSION AFTER JUNE

Richard Bangs vignettes – integrated web series with *Huffington Post*, Vimeo and Orbitz with possibility for a special PBS production.

Luxury wine tours ("La Dolce Vita Journeys") – produced by Roberto Mitrotti of The Compulsive Traveler (with potential co-sponsorship of Wines of Chile or others).

Partner Requests

The agency liaised with Lanny Grossman, PR for The Singular, Patagonia, about the prospect of TC supporting or adding writers to a LAN Chile trip in April – although it was unclear if the trip was proceeding or if the budget exists for TC to assist.

Continued to liaise with Kristina Schreck on behalf of James Sturz and Paula de la Cruz (for Hangaroa and The Aubrey) and with Maureen Poschman handling PR for Tierra Patagonia.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

Top Chef

The agency held a conference call with Megan Kat of LAN about the project – which she endorsed enthusiastically. In addition, we made changes to the draft “offer letter” and forwarded it on to Turismo Chile for further input with the idea of sending it to the show’s production company this month – to trigger negotiations on specific elements of “the ask.” At the end of February, C. Luna sent the agency a spreadsheet breaking out what TC and partners were prepared and able to provide to Magical Elves in support of the production.

Born to Explore on ABC

Agency held several more discussions with host Richard Wiese and producer Mercedes Velgot – with exchanges on stories, timing and logistics based on their shooting needs. It was agreed the shoot would be in May – with host and producer favoring mid-May but agreeing to leave the date open. Focus of ten-day shoot remains Santiago, areas within reach of Santiago (e.g., Horcon fishing village), and the Atacama’s Atacameno community and cultural traditions.

EVENTS

Travel + Leisure Global Bazaar

Continued discussions between T+L and TC on creating Easter Island installation for the Global Bazaar in September 2012. Began research on creating replicas of Moai statues for the event as well as to use for pre- and post-show promotion. Awaiting estimates from production companies to build the Moai statues.

Alexandra’s March Visit to NYC

Booked accommodations for A. Munoz at Flatiron Hotel from March 19-24. Began reaching out to media and partners to schedule meetings during A. Munoz’s visit in NYC.

TRADE RELATIONS

Researched U.S. events and fairs for TC to consider participation including New York Times Travel Show

Coop Programs

A conference call was held with Travel Impressions to discuss different itineraries for their 2013 program. Agency also received a proposal from LATOUR re developing a co-op marketing program. They also sent a proposal for a Travel Agent Roadshow, in the fall.

FAM Trip-Wines of Chile

Agency worked with Gail Thornton from Wines of Chile to put a FAM trip together for Tour Operators to experience Santiago and the Wine region. Agency reached out to 20 TO’s to build a group of 5-10. Due to the short time frame with the trip taking place five weeks later it was a challenging project. Agency expanded the number of tour operators to 30 and managed to get considerable interest. The major problem was the short timeframe. Agency secured five TO’s and liaised with Gail Thornton and TC to answer all their questions. Trip is scheduled to depart on March 10th. In future we would recommend sending the invitations out 10-12 weeks prior to the trip. Based on the interest we believe we would have 8-10 TO’s to participate.

SeaTrade

Reviewed U.S. media list and advised A. Munoz which media they should invite to the Chile Booth welcome cocktail event. Reviewed cruise press release for A. Munoz.

Virtuoso

Continued discussions with Virtuoso regarding the 2012 program. Turismo Chile confirmed that the budget for the Virtuoso 2012 marketing program should not exceed \$100,000.

ATTA

Held discussion regarding TC's sponsorship at ATTA including hosting the cocktail reception. Considered partnerships with outdoor brands such as Eddie Bauer, Outdoor Research and Teva. Eddie Bauer is interested in participating in a major promotion with TC, but will have to delay due to management changes at the company

ADVERTISING

- Status call on 15th
- Coordinated prize winner (Saveur) and handover to Alejandra Saenz
- Meeting with Travel + Leisure to develop potential Global Bazaar participation
- Reviewed advertising opportunity: CBS Spectacular and Macy's Vision in New York City
- Briefing discussion re: additional opportunities for The View marketing brochure
- Status call on 27th to review advertising program
- Developed proposal for additional uses for The View Magazine

CLIENT RELATIONS

- Participated in calls with Turismo Chile and other execs
- Liaised with TC partners and individual public relations teams
- Assisted with invoice and budget adjustments

MISCELLANEOUS

- Discussion with C. Luna and A. Munoz regarding estimate to build new crates for pod and hold it in warehouse until May. Researched relevant museums to donate miner's pod and sent to TC for review.
- Continued to contact partners (ProChile, Puro Chile, American Airlines, etc.) to gauge interest in distributing Chile's *View Magazine*. Sent desired number of shipment for each partner to TC.
- Held in-person meeting with public relations team for Tierra Hotels to discuss current and upcoming press trips, and where we could support each other.

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Best Romantic Winter Getaways

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Choose your romantic getaway for two: from an intimate, affordable nook up in the trees to a wilderness camp at the very end of the earth.

From February 2012
 By [Crai Bower](#), [Lindsey Olander](#), [Kathryn O'Shea-Evans](#)

Appeared in magazine as "Romantic Escapes"

Of the 30-plus countries that [Cathy Grey](#) has visited, on every continent save Antarctica, her greatest love affair has been with a Berber village in Morocco:

"Getting to know the locals and riding mules into the mountains is a fantastic way to bond," reflects the New York-based veterinarian. "The sleeping arrangements at high altitude, the kerosene lamps, fireplace, and burrowing under 10,000 colorful blankets just feels extremely intimate."

While everyone defines romance differently, travel is a natural stimulant, and the most romantic getaways woo us with just this kind of intimate, quality time to bond and discover. There's always some place new to experience together, and our partnerships should embolden us to push our boundaries and travel more exotically. This year, why not skip your usual ski resort in favor of backcountry trails past fumaroles and snow-covered birch trees in northern Japan?

For those who like it hot, there are as many ways to flee winter as to embrace it. You could learn to surf together along Mexico's Pacific Coast, or slip into a bungalow within Costa Rica's cloud forest. Like pursuing romance itself, reaching the honeymoon suite at Pacuare River Lodge requires going out on a limb—it's only accessible via a suspension bridge. Dinner is served by candlelight along the mighty river, one of the best white water rafting systems in Central America.

"I personally think that a little whitewater rafting is not unlike the romantic relationship," observes Grey. "There is the initial fear, the immediate thrill and the afterglow of satisfaction."

Of course, romance doesn't always require such strenuous efforts. Sometimes even the most active among us would rather just savor the thrill of having nothing to do and nowhere else to be but nesting together—especially when the setting is your own private treehouse or a fabulous Italian seaside villa. Even getaways to romantic destinations like Paris that seem cliché can prove alluring and fresh when done right.

So whether you tend to paddle or pamper, snowshoe or snuggle, we've mapped out getaways that promise to add a little *je ne sais quoi* to a winter romance with your mate.

—Crai Bower

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Best Romantic Winter Getaways

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Escape to Otherworldly Chile

Southernmost Chile is a land of extremes, and Tierra

Patagonia's (from \$1,950 per person, all-inclusive, three-night minimum) dunelike structure

risks from a barren glacier-scape on the edge of Torres del Paine

National Park. Each of the 40 rooms at this all-inclusive resort channels

weatherworn Chilean Patagonia: blond

wood walls, sparse decor, woolen

blankets, and earthy colors provide a

comfortable escape, while the views

themselves look out over Lake Sarmiento

and the distant snowcapped peaks of the

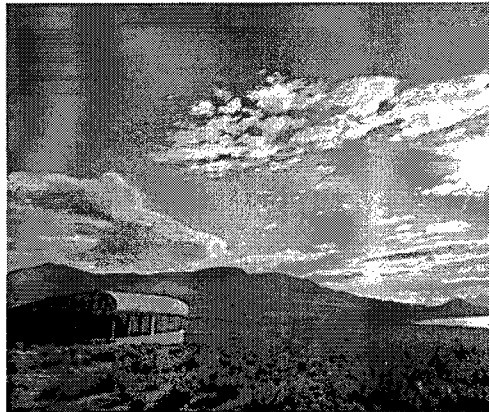
Paine mountain range. Stays include

fastes from the hotel's extensive list of

Chilean wines and adventurous excursions such as daylong hikes to see thrombolite formations along the lakeshore, fording the Baguales River on horseback, or mountain biking around the estancia. —Lindsey Olander

Room to Book: Each of the three design suites boasts two floors, two bathrooms, and a separate living room on the upper floor with elevated views of the lake.

Insider Tip: Massages offered at Tierra's UMA spa incorporate crystals and stones sourced directly from the region.



Courtesy of Tierra Patagonia

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Letter to Chile

Meditations on South America's prolific winemaker

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By Bill St. John, Special to Tribune Newspapers

February 1, 2012

Dear Chile:

I am happy I came to see you again. You are one of my favorite countries to visit. Whenever I come to you — this was the third time — I always feel as if I am sneaking into a special place, hidden behind a secret panel.

You are the longest and thinnest country on the globe, topped by the fire of the world's driest desert, your feet in the ice of glaciers and Antarctica. The impenetrable Andes are your eastern spine and your west is wetter than wet, a nearly unbroken expanse across the vast Pacific. You veil yourself so from the rest of the world, tucked away, unique and quiet. You are extraordinary.

I came for your wines, of course, to discover more about them. I had not seen you in 10 years; much had changed — but also much had not.

I will be blunt. Chile, you need to begin to tell a better and fresher story about your wines.

The old story — that Chile produces delicious red and white wines, especially red, at a very reasonable price — has become a boring story. You need to tell us about your more exciting wines, your up-and-comers, the distinctive sauvignon blancs from your north; unoaked chardonnay from your coast; electric, characterful syrah and carmenere from your hills.

I believe that there are two ways people learn to tell their story: by listening to others' stories and comparing and contrasting your own with them, and by knowing deep down who you are and telling it so.

So, listen to stories about a country's wines that do not have happy endings and learn from that. As we say in America, "go to school on somebody else."

Yes, just as other people have gone to school on you.

I remember how in the 1980s Argentina watched you enviously as you sold lakes of inexpensive wine to the world. But then they also watched as you became the wine world's bargain basement of low-end wines. (You're just beginning to overcome that unflattering image.) Argentina avoided such a mistake by initially offering wines at several price points.

I hear people from Chile say they wish their country had "a malbec" the way Argentina has one, a wine that sells itself with no effort. But do not be resentful; Argentina's current story soon will have its own not-so-happy ending.

Really, how much Argentine malbec — which all very much tastes the same and costs close to the same amount — can or will anyone drink forever? How much of any wine that is not distinctive or interesting can anyone drink forever? At whatever price?

You may also go to school on New Zealand's soon-to-be unhappy ending: How much over-cropped, high acid, made-by-recipe, untextured sauvignon blanc will anyone drink forever?

Or you may learn from Australia's sad story: Why blend wines, white or red, from regions separated by hundreds of miles to achieve a certain "style" of wine, instead of reflecting a large vineyard region's sense of place?

What does anyone want a wine to say? That it is a style? Or rather that it comes from somewhere? The personalities of styles change; the personalities of places do not.

Argentina's malbec bubble soon will burst; the tsunami of Kiwi sauvignon blanc soon will dry up. When and why? When something more interesting and distinctive, at a reasonable price, comes along.

Tannat from Uruguay perhaps. Or maybe sauvignon blanc from South Africa.

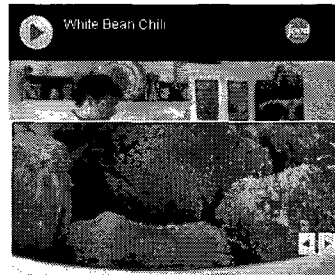
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT ...



On Groundhog Day, lunch at Harry Caray's repeats itself



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Something is bound to come along, something interesting and distinctive; that is what bursts bubbles or prevents people from yawning in the middle of a story. Can it be something from Chile?

Yes, if you tell the story about who you are and act on it. Your greatest strength is your diversity of terroir. Chile is replete with places that do or can make distinctive wines, red or white, such as Limari or Maule or Bio Bio — there are dozens.

People want to drink wine that speaks to them about where it was born. People do not want to listen to boring stories. Terroir is the way a vine tells us its story. The winemaker, the style-maker, the marketer, they cannot speak the place. Only the place has its voice and can tell its story.

Award-winning wines of Chile

Bill St. John was recently in Chile judging the ninth annual Wines of Chile competition. Among the hundreds of wines entered in the contest, here are three that took a Best of Category honor this month:

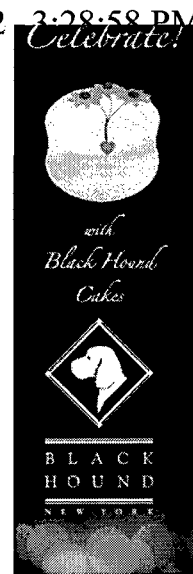
2011 Vina San Pedro Castillo de Molina Sauvignon Blanc Reserva Elqui Valley: Sancerre from South America; an amazing value for all the fruit it delivers, neatly tightened by tingling acidity and the northern vineyard's characteristic chalky undertone. \$10

2010 Tamaya Chardonnay Reserva Limari Valley: Remarkably fresh and linear, with verve and focus; juicy yellow fruit flavors (pear, apple, tropical) with seductive whispers of minerals. \$15-\$20

2009 Cono Sur Syrah Limited Edition "20 Barrels" Limari Valley: Cool-climate syrah that doesn't skimp on concentrated, near-jammy dark fruit flavors, but also adds scents of the earth, dusty, chalky tannins in moderation, and a terrific hint of mineral. \$22-\$25

Bill St. John has been writing and teaching about wine for more than 30 years.

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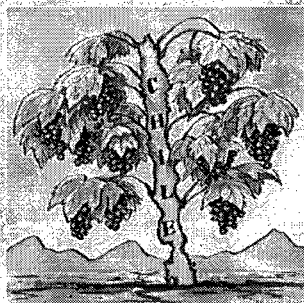
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Chile's other revolution



By Jancis Robinson

One development includes a group of producers who have joined together to bottle wines obeying the rules of a single appellation, Vigno.



As a writer of wine reference books, I am truly scared by Chile and its pace of change. I asked two people to bring me up to speed on the newest wine regions there – writer and broadcaster Peter Richards, the Master of Wine who knows most about Chilean wine, and Michael Cox, the UK head of Wines of Chile. Between them they managed to come up with seven new areas where vines have recently been planted and of which I had never heard.

But it is not just the Chilean wine map that has been evolving frenetically. The range of grapes grown and good enough to tout has also widened enormously from the old Cabernet/Merlot nexus. And social structures are changing rapidly, too. Until quite recently, Chile's thriving wine export business was dominated by the large companies run by the country's landed ruling class. The grandees owned the land and the companies and employed families of farm workers in the vineyards and an oft-changing roster of oenologists in the wineries. It was rare for these winemakers to own their own vines – although in less favoured wine regions, peasant farmers would deliver their grapes to local co-operatives. Recently, however, winemakers have increasingly been able to invest in land, and a number of foreigners have moved in.

More

ON THIS STORY

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FROM JANCIS ROBINSON

Has it been a vintage year?
The great whites
Dazzling reds
The bubbly blues

Then came the Movi movement, a grouping of ambitious small-scale wine producers dotted around the country who realised, in 2009, that by joining together and singing the praises of small companies versus big, they could create much more noise than by operating independently. And now we have another much more geographically and varietally specific association, Vignadores de Carignan – producers who have joined together to bottle a range of exciting wines essentially obeying the rules of a single appellation, Vigno.

According to one interpretation, Vigno is the result of two earthquakes and a Canadian wine-loving marketing enthusiast who originally came to Chile to ski. Derek Mossman Knapp ran a brand agency in Santiago for 10 years before starting Garage Wines and spotting that Chile had a completely unrealised and so far unmarketed asset in the

vineyards of its least glamorous wine region, Maule. For years, this extensive region was dismissed as fit only to furnish the most basic table wine for the domestic market, not least because Pais, or Mission, the rather coarse vine variety introduced to the Americas by the Conquistadores, was the dominant grape.

Editor's Choice

LUNCH WITH THE FT



Zbigniew Brzezinski shares his worries about Barack Obama and China

NICHOLAS LANDER



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Gillmore's Vigno is made from its own old 100 per cent Carignan vines. Gillmore is also a member of Movi, the group of small independent Chilean wine producers.

Nakedwines.com (01603 281800) offers a six-bottle Chilean case, including Gillmore Carignan 2008, for £98.76.

In 1939 there was a terrible earthquake around Chillán in the south of Maule. Just like their counterparts in the Languedoc would do a decade or two later, the Chilean authorities suggested that the devastated vineyards might be improved by planting Carignan, the productive vine variety that makes deep crimson, relatively tart, structured wines. Varietal Carignan made carelessly from young or over-productive vines can be a fearsome thing, but many of these Maule vines are now 60 or 70 years old.

These ancient, low-yielding plants are also dry-farmed. Since rainfall this far south is higher than in the north, and because most of the farms are peasant smallholdings, there are few irrigation systems. The vines are also unwired bushvines – quite different from the rows of carefully trained, often highly productive plants that supply most of the wine exported from Chile – but they are well able to coax real individuality out of Maule's granite and rocky soils.

Then came the earthquake of 2010, also centred on Maule, which left many of these farmers even more impoverished. Knapp saw that an old-vine Carignan initiative would tick many boxes for modern wine consumers in search of authenticity,

but that it could also help local farmers and the Chilean wine industry re-evaluate the produce of Maule.

Knapp travelled widely throughout the region, meeting the notably senior vigneron left in charge of the family holdings after their children had long since fled to the city. His marketing antennae twitched delightedly when he encountered tinajas, ancient earthenware fermentation vessels eerily similar to the amphorae and expensive "concrete eggs" being adopted by fashion-conscious "natural wine" producers in the rest of the world. He had moody photographs of hands as gnarled as the vines and wise old men in straw hats taken for a Vigno brochure. A Vigno logo was designed.

But the most important groundwork for establishing the initiative was enthusing a small band of winemakers from companies of varying sizes about the quality of the old Carignan grapes, so that they could go back to their employers and insist that they participate. As Kiwi Brett Jackson, winemaker at Valdivieso, said, "We're capturing a bit of Chilean history that was getting lost." Knapp, ever the marketing man, albeit one who has been keen to encourage Fairtrade principles in paying the smallholders for their grapes, calls it "living patrimony".

Those now involved are the local Cauquenes co-op Las Lomas; big companies Valdivieso, Miguel Torres, De Martino, Undurraga; medium-sized ones Morandé and Odjell; Movi members Bravado Wines, Garage Wines Co, Gillmore and Meli, and winemaker Pablo Morandé's small family company Viña Roja. Renan Cancino, viticultural consultant with a number of wineries including the widely admired De Martino, has also made a Vigno from his family's vines in Maule, but it has not yet been released.

The rules that the Vignadores de Carignan have agreed on include a mandatory 24-month ageing period (arguably a bit long), dry-farmed bushvines, and at least 65 per cent of Carignan; all vines to be at least 30 years old (although new varieties can be grafted on to old roots).

These earthy reds vary of course, and those I tasted ranged from 2007 to 2010, including one that even included a touch of Chardonnay in the fermentation vat. None is less than 14 per cent alcohol, but they are all vastly different from the Chilean norm: much more, well, natural.

For full notes on the tastings, see *Purple Pages* of JancisRobinson.com

Current Vigno offerings

- Garage Wines Co, Lot #29 2010
- Undurraga 2010
- Bravado Wines 2009
- Meli 2009
- Morandé 2009

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Chilean capital Santiago (top and above). (Photo: Chile Travel/Senatur)



Friday, February 03, 2012
Destination Guides

Destination Santiago

An executive's guide to the Chilean capital.

BY RUTH BRADLEY
Latin Trade Magazine

Insights and advice from Daniel Picciotto, president of Colombia-based PDC Vinos y Licores Ltda., and José Luis Portela, general manager of the Chilean subsidiary of Spain's Telepizza.

What do you like most about traveling to Santiago?

Daniel Picciotto: As a frequent traveler, I appreciate the efficiency of the city's airport and the fact that it's easy and fast to get from there to downtown and the hotels. The roads and highways are fantastic which also means you can visit places outside Santiago. I love the weather. In winter, you can ski on weekends and then drive to the ocean side in the late afternoon. And, of course, if you are a wine lover, Chile is a place you want to visit.

José Luis Portela: I'm currently based in Santiago but I travel a lot and I really appreciate Santiago's marvelous climate, especially the summer with its long, sunny but not overpoweringly hot days and pleasantly cooler nights. It also has a privileged location, just an hour by car from both the beach and several ski centers. The main shopping malls and the Alonso de Córdova neighborhood are excellent for shopping, with a variety of top-quality brands and products.

What do you like least?

Picciotto: Santiago's air is very polluted, especially in winter. Traffic can sometimes be a problem but this is true of many capitals around the world.

Portela: The smog in winter. I also dislike the rather aggressive way people sometimes drive.

What are your preferred hotels when on business?

Picciotto: I'm a big fan of the Sheraton Four Points. It's well located, has great service and the price is unbeatable (Disclosure: Picciotto belongs to a group that is part owner of this hotel). The Sheraton Towers has a great swimming pool and so does the Hyatt.

Portela: One of the hotels I can recommend is the W. It's set apart by its location, decoration and atmosphere. I'd also recommend the Hyatt with its great facilities and attentive service.

What restaurants do you recommend?

Picciotto: For fancy dining I like to go to El Europeo, which has a classical French menu. Da Carla is a classical Italian restaurant with great food and atmosphere. I also like Ichiban for sushi, Cuervaca for steak and Miraolas for seafood. If you want to venture downtown, Ostras Azócar for oysters is a must and, for typical Chilean food, Doña Tina. The best place for pizza and a fun place to go is Tiramisú but it's a good idea to reserve ahead of time.

Portela: For Peruvian food, which is very popular in Santiago, I like La Mar and Cocoa. For fish, there's Miraolas and, for meat, Ox and Santabresa and, for Italian food, Da Carla. La Boquería de Barcelona, a new Spanish restaurant, has been very successful.

What practical advice would you give to someone who is visiting Santiago for the first time on business?

Picciotto: Choose your hotel's location carefully because of traffic and because there is a lot to do apart from business, like visiting a winery or driving to Valparaíso. Santiago is very informal and most businessmen have done away with jackets and ties but it's always a good idea to find out how the people you are meeting will be dressed before you travel. Santiago tends to be very quiet at night if you don't know where to go so I always schedule both my days and nights ahead of time.

Portela: Santiago is a comfortable city for work and to visit. I'd recommend trying to set aside some time to visit the surrounding area – the vineyards of the Casablanca Valley, the Cajón del Maipo in the Andes and Zapallar, an elegant beach resort where the Chiringuito restaurant is a great place for lunch.

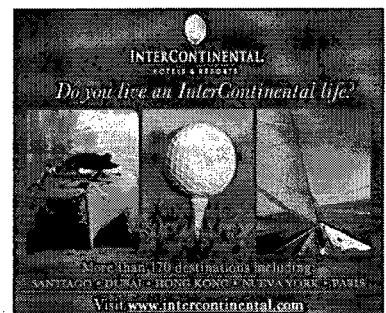
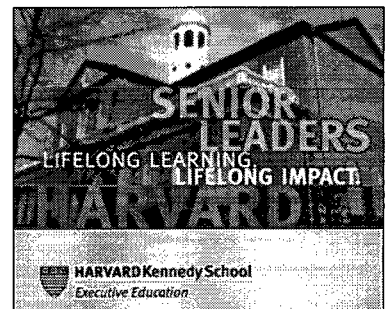
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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 06, 2012**9 LIFE-CHANGING ADVENTURE TRIPS**

From hidden fishing rivers in Chile to mountain biking in Whistler, our guide shows you where to go and the gear you'll need to take your adventures to the next level.

By GORDY MEGROZ



Experience the ultimate adventure on Mount Fitz Roy, Glacier National Park, Argentina. Photographers Peter Eschick/Aurora

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OUTSIDE MAGAZINE, MARCH 2012
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Southern Chile and Argentina

By GORDY MEGROZ



Chimbera Hut near Fitz Roy. Photographers Peter Eschick/Aurora



Photos



Chimbera Hut near Fitz Roy

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You Have: Two weeks off and enough money for a plane ticket to South America.

You Want: To kayak huge fjords, hike through icefields, and catch fat trout.

The Trip: For a DIY road trip in a foreign country, you can't do much better than Chilean and Argentinean Patagonia. The crime is low, the food is great, and you can ramble between fjords, mountains, and trout-filled rivers. The roads can be crappy, though, so you do need a 4x4. Fly into Chile's Punta Arenas (there are direct flights from Santiago) and pick up your rental. From there, drive six hours to the iconic Torres del Paine National Park and trek the French Valley. Stay at **Cerro Guido** (from \$200), a working ranch that serves a mean roast lamb. Now start heading northeast. Next stop: El Calafate, Argentina, four hours away, where you'll crash at the **Hotel El Quijote** (doubles, \$104; 011-54-2902-491017) and fall asleep to the sound of cracking glaciers. Then it's on to El Chalten, near 11,000-foot Fitz Roy. After hiking the surrounding icefields, head back into Chile on Route 40. Fill the tank first—it's a 12.5-hour drive through empty desert, after which you'll be ready to crash at the **Hacienda Tres Lagos** lodge (doubles from \$150) near Chile Chico. Have the lodge's fly-fishing guides take you hunting for fat brown trout on the Rio Baker (from \$290 per person per day). Prefer to go it alone? Make for the emerald waters near Colihaique and hit the Rio Simpson for hot mayfly action. You can fly out of the nearby Balmaceda airport or (recommended) extend the trip with a 250-mile jaunt north on the famed Carretera Austral highway to fjord-punctuated Pumalin Park. Rent a sea kayak from **Alsar Expeditions**, located in the park (from \$50 per day), then head to Quintupeo Fjord, floating under waterfalls and past towering granite walls.

Essential Gear: This one's simple—a passport, good travel insurance like **Travel Guard** (a \$500 policy will protect you in the event of everything from health issues to car breakdowns), a six-weight fly rod with a variety of dry flies and woolly buggers, and a good vehicle. The most popular models here are the Toyota Hilux and Chevrolet Tundra. Both start at \$1,000 for a two-week rental from Punta Arenas.

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Travel Tip: Hot 2012 Destinations

AUDIO TRAVEL TIPS, DESTINATIONS, TRAVEL TIPS — ON FEBRUARY 2, 2012 9:31 AM

What's on your bucket list for 2012? Well I've got some tips on the hot destinations of the year, and some of them may actually surprise you.

Let's start with the places you didn't think you could travel to...like Cuba! The embargo is still in place, but the restrictions have been relaxed and there are a number of ways to get there.

It's possible to visit on an educational, cultural or people-to-people tour. Companies like Distant Horizons and Insight Cuba have recently increased the number of tour options and they take care of all the logistics.

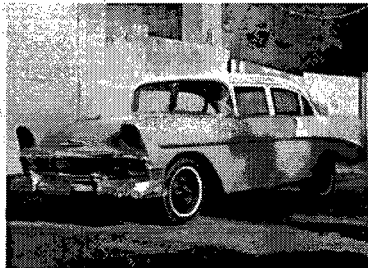
How about Myanmar? Also known as Burma, this country has been largely avoided because of its military dictatorship. The trick is to go in a way that supports the local—not government-owned—businesses. Companies like Intrepid Travel frequent these small businesses so you know your travel dollars are going to the right place.

And then there are the up-and-coming destinations that are great alternatives to the tried and true. In addition to Argentina, head to Chile; instead of Spain, go to Portugal.

These are countries that are red-hot for their affordability, food and wine culture and outdoor recreation.

For more information our daily travel tips [here](#).

For more information visit the Watch and Listen page of [CBSNewYork.com](#). Just click on Audio on Demand.



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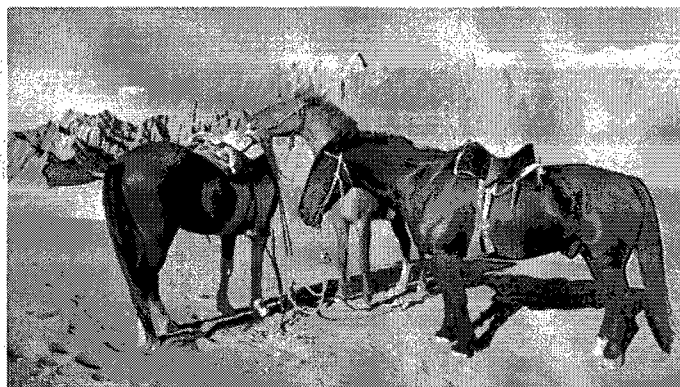
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Exploring Chile's Atacama Desert

by Karen Loftus

Published on: 02.02.12

Filed under: TRAVEL ★ FEATURES



Set at nearly 8,000 feet above sea level and miles from modern civilization, San Pedro de Atacama is perfectly positioned for adventure enthusiasts traveling to [Chile](#).

Any true wanderluster has Chile inked in on their travel wish list. The trick with Chile is that there is so much to see and do, it warrants several trips in. Right up there with Patagonia and Easter Island, I had San Pedro De Atacama on the top of my Chilean travel list.

Catch a flight to South America, to Santiago, Chile's European-styled capital city. Experience Chile's cuisine, wine and culture before stepping off the grid and heading to the desert oasis. Hop one of LAN's commuter flights from Santiago to Calama, the nearest city. In less than an hour, you'll enter the tiny town of San Pedro De Atacama, home of the driest desert on earth.



The town has 2,500 full-time residents and a handful of four- and five-star all-inclusive properties. If looking to slip further off the grid, Tierra Atacama Hotel & Spa is an idyllic five-star option.

Renting a car is not necessary as the hotel picks you up at the airport, gets you to the property and provides transportation to your excursions throughout. All is included from transports to three meals daily, an endless flow of wine and cocktails, guides, necessary equipment and life altering excursions on a daily basis.



Upon arrival at the property, the crew wastes no time in setting up a schedule for the days ahead. It is similar to safari schedules with morning and late afternoon in to evening excursions each day.

There was a perfect build with our activities and the right amount of time to acclimatize to the high altitude and dry desert. We started early our first evening with a visit in to a local village en route to the Chilean Flamingo Reserve and the Atacama salt beds. It was the perfect welcome with the sun setting and an idyllic Andean backdrop.

The next day we were walking on the moon in Moon Valley. When we stood in the silence on what appeared to be a cinematic set, we could actually hear the Juno Cameron like craters expand in the heat. We took the "h" picture of the trip in Death Valley on a desert cliff and later took a long dusty desert bike ride to a salty bed of water similar, but smaller in

scale to the Dead Sea. Then we soaked in the Chilean sunset with beers and wines on the banks before heading back.

Our last day, we got up extremely early to drive north for a few hours. Just as the daylight appeared, 40 foot geysers shot up all around us. People looked like black and white shadow characters from a vintage film as the sun started to rise in the background. It was a jaw dropping display of nature.



After lunch I biked in to the tiny colonial town for a baby alpaca scarf and some play with the locals. The town is a destination unto itself with local restaurants and bars and plenty of Pisco on pour. It is a great way to experience the local lure as there is a quirkiness and an authentic charm to the town.

That final afternoon I suited up and met my two Chilean cowboy guides. We strolled through town on our horses. Then my Black Beauty and I galloped in to Death Valley to experience surreal peaks and sandy valleys that I never could have imagined on foot. It felt as if we had the Valley and all of Chile to ourselves. It was a spiritual experience at the top, for the three of us to stand there in awe and in silence with 360 degrees of natural beauty before and around us and three gorgeous horses beside us. It was a tough spot to leave.

San Pedro de Atacama - check. Next stop Patagonia and Easter Island. Stay tuned.

All images by Karen Loftus

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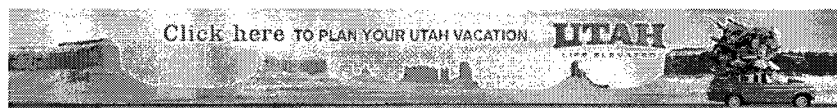
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Chile: VIP package to Lollapalooza fest and parties in Santiago

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Lollapalooza Chile comes to Santiago for a second year from March 31 to April 1. (Santiago Adventures)

By Mary Forgiore
Los Angeles Times Daily Travel & Deal blogger
February 3, 2012 | 6:00 a.m.

Lollapalooza on the flip side of the world? The 2012 mega-concert is slated for August in Chicago's Grant Park, but here's a way to get a jump on the music:

Lollapalooza Chile 2012 comes to Santiago for the second time for a two-day festival March 31 and April 1 with headliners Foo Fighters, Bjork and Arctic Monkeys as well as Latin American acts such as Los Jaivas and Illia Kuryaki & the Valderramas. In all, more than 50 performers and bands will take the stages (six in all) at O'Higgins Park.

Santiago Adventures offers a package that takes you there in style. The three-night tour includes VIP tickets to the festival and after-parties on both days, an afternoon of wine-tasting, a tour of Santiago and three nights at a top hotel.

Dates: The tour runs March 30-April 2.

Price: \$1,795 per person, based on double occupancy. It includes three nights at the W Hotel or Noi Santiago, two-day VIP festival admission, food and beverage vouchers at the festival, after parties, wine tasting, a tour of Santiago and more. Separately, the best room rate I could find at the W was \$469 a day and the best price on a two-day VIP pass was \$333 a person. Note that this package does not include airfare, but the extras make it worth considering. (There's also a \$750 package that includes regular festival admission and stays at a mid-range hotel.)

Contact: Santiago Adventures, (802) 904-6798

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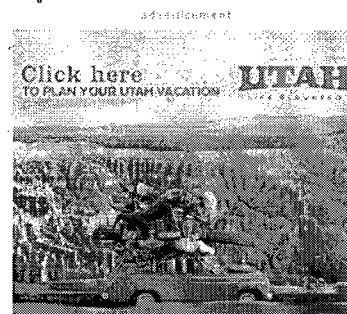
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Your Host



Los Angeles Times Daily Travel & Deal blogger Mary Forgiore likes to hit the dirt when she's on vacation. An avid hiker and runner, Mary likes speed-touring cities on foot and sightseeing by running marathons.

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Adventure travel bargains

By Akshay Bhasin @Morty February 6, 2012 5:34 AM ET

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Rafting, cycling and hiking trips are popular and often pricey. Use these smart strategies to keep costs down to earth.

(MONEY Magazine) -- Lots of Americans these days want something more from a vacation than vegging out on a beach, a mojito close at hand. Some 30% of respondents to a Travel-Ticker.com survey put adventure travel on their 2012 wish list, and spending in the category has been growing 17% a year, even as economic woes slowed leisure travel overall.

Engaging in intense physical activity, connecting with nature, discovering an exotic culture -- if you're lucky, such experiences will send you back to your everyday life with a renewed sense of passion and purpose.

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As you might expect, myriad high-end outfitters will gladly plan and execute an expedition fit for Papa Hemingway, packaging together all your meals, hotels (or comfy campsites), gear and guides.

Making such a transformational experience happen at affordable rates, however, is no small challenge. After all, getting outside your comfort zone is one thing;

forgoing all manner of modern comforts quite another. And if you're new to activities like kayaking, white-water rafting, or zip-lining, well, they're best undertaken with some expert guidance -- which can cost you.

So MONEY called on industry insiders for advice on ways to put together a trip that will blow your mind without blowing your budget. What follows are four strategies for saving on world-class active travel:

Go at shoulder season

Every great destination has a peak season, often coinciding with school vacation. Be flexible to avoid crowds and premium pricing -- and perhaps discover an under-appreciated side of an iconic experience.

Travel bargain questions? Send them to The Help Desk.

Rafting in the spring: High season for rafting in Idaho and Colorado is July. For an even bigger thrill -- and better prices on accommodations and guided trips -- arrive a month earlier, when the rivers rage. "It's not the time to bring the youngest kids," says travel adviser Caroline Bach Wood, "but it's great if you're an adventure seeker."

Savings: Six days on Idaho's Salmon River with OARS runs \$1,982 a person in June, or about 15% off peak prices.

South America in the spring: Argentina and Chile are hiking hot spots in our winter, their summer. Go in April, May, or June, and you'll save big, says

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travel consultant Betty Jo Curnie. Ditto for Machu Picchu: High season is our fall, but she says the Inca ruins are "much more beautiful at the end of rainy season."

Savings: A nine-day trek in Chile with Wildland Adventures is \$3,195 in high season, but \$2,650 in April, or 17% less.

Costa Rica in November: The wet season is tapering off in November and early December, says Wood. "It may still rain a bit, but you'll get to do the activities you planned, and the greenery will be more beautiful."

Savings: A four-day Adventure Costa Rica package that costs \$937 a person after December 19, is \$776 before, -- 17% less.

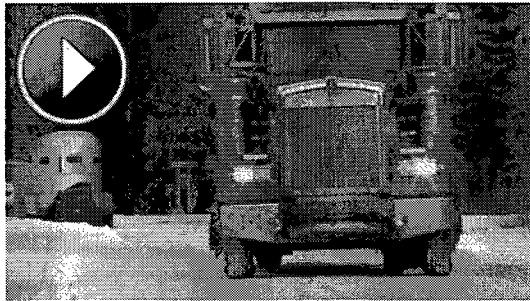
Go local

Most big-name adventure-travel packagers -- like Butterfield and Robinson, Mountain Travel Sobek, Backroads, and CAPS -- provide an indisputably solid experience. But bypassing the blue-chip brand for a local tour operator can pay off in more ways than one.

First, you can save money.

Local operations generally have lower overhead and marketing costs, so their trips often cost around 15% less, says travel adviser Wood.

Plus, your guides are likely to be full-time residents who know secret trails and local history.



Travel tips from an 'Ice Road Truck'

Says Wood: "It's a more intimate experience with guides who have been there for 20 or 30 years."

How do you find the right mom-and-pop outfitter? Start by looking at those that have been in business for at least 10 years under the same ownership. To help zero in, Wood suggests calling the concierge at a local four- or five-star hotel for recommendations.

Customer comments at sites like **TripAdvisor** can be all over the map -- beware reviews planted by the outfitters themselves -- but worth reading with a skeptical eye.

When you call -- and booking adventure travel on the Web is risky, so you should call -- the person on the phone ought to be able to offer specific advice tailored to your group's level of experience and interests.

Go somewhere almost as good

The most popular adventure-travel destinations are also expensive and often crowded. If you are open to alternatives, you'll find that your travel dollars will go further and the wide-open spaces might actually be just that -- wide open.

Hiking

The classic: Jackson Hole, Wyo., gateway to Grand Teton National Park

Sound alternative: Whitefish, Mont., and Glacier National Park

The case: Fewer crowds plus better lodgings for your money. Rooms at the Lodge at Whitefish Lake start around \$200, \$100 less than comparable rooms in Jackson Hole. You'll save on hiking too: A guided trek in Glacier costs \$450 a day for six. A similar trip in Grand Teton is \$725 for four, \$865 for six.

The classic: Yosemite

Sound alternative: Vegas, baby

The case: "People forget Las Vegas is hiking country," says Travel-Ticker.com general manager Jasmine Kim. Red Rock Canyon is 20 miles away, the Hoover Dam and Lake Mead just a bit farther. The Sin City's



of homeowners out in the cold [More](#)



9 celebs invading tech

Ashton Kutcher isn't the only star becoming a player in Silicon Valley. From Jessica Alba to Lady Gaga, here are the biggest celebrities trying their hands in tech. [More](#)



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gambling-subsidized hotel rooms (a night at the swank Bellagio can cost \$150) are a great base for adventure excursions.

Rafting

The classic: Middle Fork of Idaho's Salmon River

Sound alternative: Idaho's Snake River Hells Canyon

The case: A five- or six-day rafting expedition on the iconic Middle Fork costs as much as \$2,000 a person. You can cut that figure in half on the Snake River. The trip is a day or so shorter, but, says Wood, "you still get scenic river canyons and that epic white water."

Cycling

The classic: Tuscany

Sound alternative: Germany's Mosel River Valley

The case: The bike paths along the Mosel River are a great introductory cycling trip, says Dan Austin, a director with Austin-Lehman Adventures. "You'll still get the quintessential European bike vacation, visiting wineries and the small villages," he says. But at around \$2,700 for a seven-day trip, it'll cost at least 20% less.

Go as a volunteer

Lots of folks have the impulse to do volunteer work but can't manage to fit it into their daily lives. Thus, more Americans are devoting vacations to such efforts, often while immersing themselves in a foreign culture.

What it is: Aside from the satisfaction of doing good, volunteer travel can be a chance to work among native communities and see a rarely glimpsed side of foreign cultures.

Best New Money Moves for 2012

Options range from working with elephants in Sri Lanka to teaching children English in Kenya. You can plan through a nonprofit -- Habitat for Humanity and Foundation for Sustainable Development are among the groups that run trips -- or a specialty travel agency.

What it costs: These are working vacations, and room and board are often modest. Still, the range is vast, from \$275 for a week of domestic trail maintenance and camping with the American Hiking Society to \$4,750 for a week of volunteering in Guatemala and a week touring the country with **Hands Up Holidays**.

Way to save: Look for a trip that you can write off on your taxes. Consult your accountant, because the rules are tricky, but if you book through a nonprofit and work full-time (eight hours a day), you generally can deduct trip costs and airfare, says CCH tax analyst Mark Luscombe.

Resources: Search for projects that fit your interests at flyforgood.net and voluntourism.org.

Beth Braverman and Tali Yehalom contributed to this article.

MONEY magazine is researching an article on ways to reduce the financial pain of college. We're looking for families that can talk about new and creative ways that they're raising cash for college and cutting costs while they're there. Sound like you? Tell us your story and you might even get your picture in the magazine! E-mail Beth_Braverman@money.com.



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Viewing an eclipse on Easter Island

by Fred Wood - Feb. 10, 2012 01:16 PM
Special for The Republic

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In July 2010 my wife, Carmelisa, and I traveled to one of the most remote places on the planet, Easter Island or, more accurately, Rapa Nui.

Slide show: Where You've Been

We visited this small island in the South Pacific as one of the best vantage points for viewing the total eclipse of the sun. Photographers and professional and hobby astronomers traveled to this [destination](#) some 2,000 miles off the coast of Chile to witness this rare event. The occurrence was spectacular.



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once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Southern Hemisphere.

The author lives in Tempe.

I am an amateur astronomer. My wife is a photographer. We think [travel](#) opens your mind as well as your eyes.

Our adventure began with a flight to Papeete, Tahiti. This Polynesian island is one of the loveliest places on Earth. The air and water temperatures are usually in the 80s; the vegetation is lush, exotic and wildly colorful. We had two days to enjoy the landscape, black-sand beaches and friendly locals, as well as attend astronomical lectures. My wife has a particular affection for this area because of the 1959-1962 television show "Adventures in Paradise," starring Gardner McKay.

The flight to Easter Island was scheduled for the day of the eclipse, many time zones away, landing during a driving rainstorm. Not a good sign. In rain and wind we hiked the quarry there, famous for sculptures of the Moai carved centuries ago. Just as we were set to leave the quarry, the rain stopped. The sun began to shine, treating us to a 180-degree rainbow.

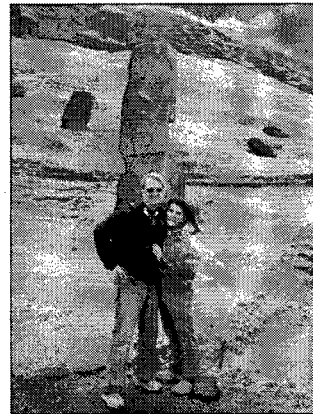
Soon after we arrived at the viewing site, the moon started to take its first "nibble" of the sun. Within 60 minutes the midday sky began to darken, the ground cooled, birds became quiet and the only source of light was the ring of "diamonds" surrounding the eclipsed solar disk. The excitement of totality was followed by a celebration among scientists, professional photographers and amateur astronomers from all over the world.

Our visit to Rapa Nui was followed by visits to Moorea and Bora Bora, as close to heaven on Earth as exists on this planet. "Bali Hai," the hit song from "South Pacific," comes to mind when picturing this tropical Eden. This was truly a



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Fred Wood

Fred and Carmelisa Wood of Tempe visited the famous Moai quarry on Easter Island before they watched a solar eclipse.

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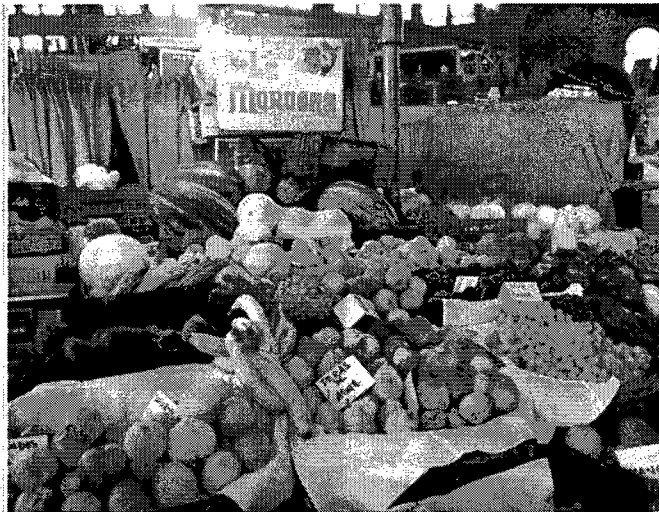
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Wish You Were Here: El Mercado Central in Santiago, Chile

Where: Santiago, Chile

February 13, 2012 2:40:11 PM | by Jaunted.com | Comments (0)



Buenos días! It's just past lunchtime here in **Santiago, Chile**, the temperature is 80 degrees, the sun is out and some empanadas are happily sitting in our stomach.

We just arrived to SCL early this morning, on the LAN direct overnight flight from New York-JFK, putting us in the center of town in time for breakfast. Getting the touristy stuff out of the way, the **Mercado Central** was a first stop for its architecture (it was opened in the late 1800s with a roof of intricate metalwork) and for some grub. Walking past the fishmongers in the markets outer rings, we find the smaller restaurants all coexisting in the very center, each with its own hawkers attempting to steer in both tourists and locals.

An immediate observation: it is a little if you don't know Spanish, and attempting with Italian just doesn't work. Not staying in a hotel (we're going the Airbnb route) increases the potential language barrier issues, but of course that's part of the fun.



[Photos: Jaunted]



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INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL | EXAMINER 10, 2012 | ADD A COMMENT

Road trip through the awesome Atacama Desert, Chile



Sharon Parsons

San Jose Travel Examiner

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Slideshow: Journey through the Atacama Desert.

The crossing into Chile went well. Even the paperwork for the pets went fast, despite the fact that we had no agricultural papers from Peru. Fortunately, we had documentation from all other countries. After entering Chile, within a few kilometers we were in the Atacama Desert. The Atacama Desert runs for 600 miles (1000km) along Chile's Pacific coast to about 30° south latitude. This article will highlight our travels along the Pan-American Highway, Ruta 5 through the Atacama Desert to Central Chile.

South to Chile's Central Valley via Ruta 5

Upon entering Northern Chile our first stop was at a campground just north of Arica. It was great to be in a country where campgrounds were readily available with services. Obligatorio. However, the first day we found that all insurance offices are closed for a special holiday, *Día del Seguro* (Insurance Day). Once the offices were open we had difficulty finding a company that issued vehicle insurance for a foreign registered vehicle. But eventually we did and all was well.

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Location: Atacama Desert, Chile

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After a restful stopover in Arica we began driving south towards *Cuzco*. Our drive south took us through the driest desert in the world (see *National Geographic*). We camped the first night on a nice beach at Pta. Camarones. The young couple camping at Pta. Camarones offered us some Chilean wine. Once we accepted they immediately began pouring some on the ground to toast their Chilean ancestors. We often continued this practice throughout the rest of our South American travels.

Next day we drove through *Reserva Nacional Pampa del Tamarugal*, which stretches from Quebrada Tana to María Elena. The reserve was established in 1987 to protect the tamarugo tree, a unique tree adapted to growing in this environment. Within the reserve there were several areas with ancient rock drawings or geoglyphs from 500-1400 AD. That night we camped 22 km SE of María Elena at Bañera de Chacabanca (Parque El Lobo) on the Rio Lobo, a desert river valley.



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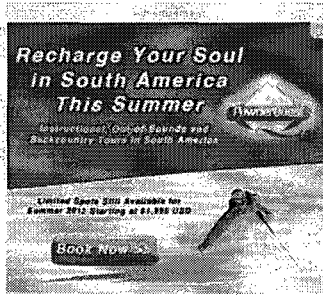
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From Rio Loa we continued south and passed the Tropic of Cancer. We spend the next night at Antofagasto, a large port city. In Antofagasto we stayed at Hotel del Sur. We had the absolute best empanadas at Florencios in Antofagasto.

The Pan-American Highway took us through some fantastic desert in spring bloom. After all it was late November in the Southern Hemisphere. We spent a couple of days relaxing at Coleta Hueso Cabañas, just north of a small town called Taitai. After Taitai our next stop was Tres Playitas, north of Huasco. From there we drove to just north of Los Vilos where we camped at Playa Chiquelas.

Arica to Los Vilos we did most of our own cooking and were able to buy good wine along the route. From the moment we crossed into Northern Chile at Arica, it was obvious that we were in a wine-rich country. Wine is a part of everyday Chilean life. As we drove south we encountered roadside shops selling sweets (dulces), olives (aceitunas), fruits and vegetables.

Leaving the Atacama Desert

South of Taitai, the desert slowly gave way to desert scrub, then to chaparral as we approached Santiago. The landscape was starting to remind us of California. While Chile is known for its wine, it was a long drive through the desert to get to Central Chile's wine regions.

It was an awesome trip through the Atacama Desert. However, after miles of Peruvian desert coastal highway, followed by the drive through the Atacama it was refreshing to reach Central Chile. Still we need to return to Chile to explore more of the Atacama, as there is so much to explore. During our travels from Arica to Puerto Montt in the south, then later through the Chilean Patagonia we got to travel through all fifteen regions (administrative divisions) of Chile.

Check out our South American travels in my travel column at the Examiner, or visit me at Spaswinefood.

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Chile's Tapati Festival

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Chile South America Now

Easter Island is famous for monumental statues carved generations ago. But every year, the traditional culture is celebrated with performances and contests — like the carving competition, that keeps the skills alive.



STORY BY:
RED HUNT
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Tapati Festival is an annual event organized by the people of Easter Island, Chile to celebrate their Rapa Nui heritage and showcase their cultural traditions.

No other cultural festival has impressed me as much as the Tapati Festival. This is really saying something, as I have been to Carnival in Rio and an array of festivals and cultural celebrations across Asia and Africa.

The people of Easter Island stage the festival for their own enjoyment, but the island attracts more tourists during this time than the entire rest of the year — which means you have to book well in advance as all hotels and guest houses fill up fast on this small island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

Every day is filled with different events, ranging from horse-racing to swimming competitions and more traditional challenges, like riding a banana tree down a hill. Two events that are central to the Tapati Festival are the carving and dancing competitions.

The importance of the carving competition is understandable, given the fame of Easter Island's monumental statues, called moai, which were created by the early Rapa Nui people. Local artisans compete against each other in carving blocks of rocks the old-fashioned way, with hammers and chisels. Their goal is to replicate the famous carvings scattered around the island from generations ago.

Watching these teams work for hours, day after day in the searing heat helps you appreciate that this is much more than just an art competition. The carvers are dedicated to their craft and hanging onto the skills of their ancestors who first landed on Rapa Nui.

For me, the nightly dancing competition was the true highlight of the Festival. Each night, song and dance routines are performed by competing teams. Individuals perform powerful warrior displays, followed by teams singing in harmony about the history and Rapa Nui way of life.



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When I was a young man, I knew that I had seen something that was different from the rest of the world. It was truly a festival for the people of the island, but I felt like a welcomed visitor. The locals happily allowed me to get a glimpse into what it was really like to be a native of Easter Island.

The music and dancing was enchanting, so the fact that I had no idea what they were singing about didn't matter. The entire island comes out for this event and you could tell from the crowd, as well as from the enthusiasm of the singers, that it was an authentic showcase of culture – with no commercial or corporate intentions.

It isn't often that you find a festival as pure to tradition as the Tapati. Unlike some big festivals around the world, you can't join in the dangerous competitions yourself or pay to be in their parade. This is their festival and you're an invited guest – which is the way it should be.

If Easter Island is on your bucket list, do yourself a favour and visit around the end of January, beginning of February to catch part of the Tapati festival. You most definitely won't be disappointed.

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Sampling Chile's melting pot

Dave Hübner daveh@chicagosuntimes.com February 17, 2012 4:06PM

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This shaded, vintage fair-sewn carriage carts visitors around the fields at the Via Maipo winery, north of Santiago. The winery was founded in 1935 and specializes in Malbec. [DAVE HÜBNER]

Updated March 23, 2012 9:06AM

SANTA CRUZ, Chile — The thirst for cultural identity makes for a good time to soak up South America.

I discovered this a couple of years ago as Colombia began its transformation from a drug cartel into a food, dance and beach destination. The same thing is happening farther south in Chile. Democracy was only re-established in 1990 in Chile after General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte's dictatorship (1973-90) was voted out. Pinochet had established Chile as one of the most open economic systems in the developing world although leftists criticize economic inequality.

But what is Chilean identity?

Even Chileans admit many pinquitos think Chile is somehow related to Mexico.

The Chilean copper miners made international news, and the government got props for a seamless, high-tech rescue.

IF YOU GO

Go to ineup.lollapalooza.cl to find the daily schedule for Lollapalooza Chile. Björk headlines on March 31, Peches and the Foo Fighters close it up on April 1.

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Until I visited Southern Chile a few weeks ago, my connection to Chile was Nobel Prize poet Pablo Neruda and Che Guevara's Motorcycle Diaries. But I discovered effervescent people with a keen sense of wonder, a highway infrastructure that works better than Chicago's and splendorous country Wine Trails. The Chilean summer ends on March 21, and winter begins around June 21.

Tapping into the embryonic identity, Lollapalooza Chile returns to Santiago (pop. 5.4 million) March 31-April 1 in O'Higgins Park in downtown Santiago, or what locals now call "Sanhattan." Last year Lollapalooza made its first venture outside of the United States, and it chose Chile. The festival was a success, drawing between 40,000 and 60,000 people daily and featuring more than 20 acts who appeared in Chile for the first time. This year's headliners include the Foo Fighters, Björk, Joan Jett and Chilean-born indie pop star Yael Meaur, now based in Los Angeles.

During my week in Southern Chile there was a Lollapalooza surprise at each turn.

I bumped into a charter tour of American wine enthusiasts at the Hotel Santa Cruz in the Colchagua Valley, a wine region about 130 miles south of Santiago. I know more about tequila than wine, but I had high expectations for regional vino because I have enjoyed the rustic tones — and affordability of Chilean wine.

The tourists were a middle-aged group, and if they had been in the Napa Valley you would have thought they were truckin' to a Bob Weir concert. The Southern region of Chile gets compared to Northern California because of cool breezes from the Pacific Ocean that permits grapes to ripen slowly. The climate is arid. Wine Enthusiast magazine named the Colchagua Valley "Region of the Year" for 2005.

Chicago is at the root of this economic and tourism

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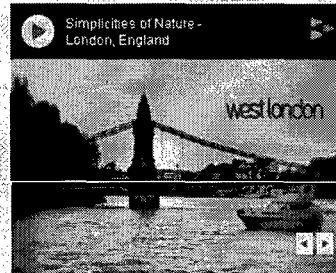
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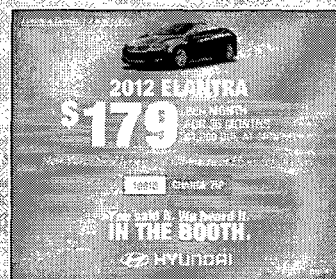
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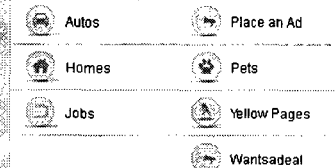
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development.

During the mid-1950s hundreds of Chileans studied free-market economics under Milton Friedman at the University of Chicago. The teachings were organized by the U.S. State Department and funded by the Ford Foundation. The economists returned to Chile where they became known as "The Chicago Boys," introducing currency stabilization, decreasing union power and opening Chile's markets to open trade during the 1970s and '80s. "You have to remember that Chile, as a socialist government in the 1970s and '80s was very protected," Raul Fernandez, Counsel General of Chile in Chicago said last week.

Fernandez, 52, is a native of Santiago. He arrived in Chicago three weeks ago after serving similar posts in Mexico and Europe. "Our identity is not only Hispanic, we are from every place in the world," Fernandez said. "Asian, a number of Arabs and Palestinians, Yugoslavia, Germany." Be on the lookout for the roadside Bavaria restaurant chain. Schnitzel and breaded pork steaks are served at Bavaria restaurants, whose yellow and red roadside signage replicate Denny's. The national chain was founded in 1954 in Santiago.

Fernandez continued, "Our advantage over Peru or Mexico is that they have a very old history. We don't have the weight of history. It is not complicated to change the structure when you don't have an enormous weight. We are open to globalization. It was easy for us to take."

The country is only 110 miles wide at its average width, but stretches 2,700 miles long, more than half the length of South America. It is surrounded by natural barriers: the ocean to the west, the Atacama Desert to the north (the world's driest desert), the Andes Mountains to the east, and the Patagonian Ice Fields to the south that claim a part of Antarctica. Soils and topography are deep and diverse. The barriers make Chile virtually free of pests.

The colorful Hotel Santa Cruz is owned by a pest to the United States.

Carlos Cardeon is one of Chile's biggest wine enthusiasts and is a major player in tourism in the valley. He opened the Hotel Santa Cruz in 2000 and painstakingly rebuilt his hotel after the 8.8 earthquake in February 2010, which leveled Santa Cruz (pop. 32,000). The 115-room Colonial-style hotel is across the street from the quaint Plaza De Armas park. The Santa Cruz native also raised money to rebuild a 19th Century church across the street from the plaza. He owns a 10,000-item museum next to the hotel that features a new exhibit honoring the 33 rescued Chilean miners. Miner Samuel Ayalos sold \$9,000 worth of his mining artifacts to Cardeon. Cardeon's Museo de Colchagua is the largest private museum in South America.

The Hotel Santa Cruz features a glorious tiki-inspired outdoor swimming pool with an adjacent lounge and Los Varietales restaurant where we enjoyed traditional Chilean corn pie. The pie is locked and loaded with beef, onions, a piece of chicken, an olive and a quarter boiled egg. The top layer of fresh corn is creamy, and after it is baked the pie is sprinkled with sugar and then broiled.

What may be most bizarre at the Hotel Santa Cruz is a small hideaway casino in the back of the property that includes slots, blackjack and live entertainment that consisted of a young Chilean woman singing karaoke on the night I dropped in. The Hotel Santa Cruz does offer a wine tour package (\$169 a person, double occupancy with Jacuzzi suite, one night, two days; chile-hotels.com/santacruz.htm.)

While the Hotel Santa Cruz is in a small downtown location, the Viu Manent Winery is a country estate just four miles southeast of Santa Cruz.

The winery encompasses 543 acres. The Viu Manent was founded in 1335 by Catalonian immigrant Miguel Viu Garcia. The current Miguel Viu Manent family has owned the estate since 1966. The family has planted more than 20 varieties of vineyards, but they specialize in Malbec.

Viu Manent is a good place to explore Chilean identity. The ranchero-inspired gift shop features colorful custom made wine labels designed by Chilean artist Catalina Abbott for the family's Secreto line. Her work is influenced by graffiti artist Jean-Michel Basquiat and Picasso. Abbott's abstract style complements the edgy blended wine (there are six different labels). I did learn that most of the Secretos are made from grapes from the youngest vineyards, which accounts for a fruity flavor.

Viu Manent is making inroads into agritourism unlike any other winery I visited. Guests are taken across the grounds in a shaded, vintage horse-drawn carriage that holds about eight people. Stops are made in the vineyards, the wine cellar and for a wine tasting by the wine vat. Lunch is served in the new Rayuela Wine & Grill, which features an indoor cantina and a sprawling colonial patio with a view of the hills of Apalta that frame the valley. A visitor's center includes a gift store and options for horseback riding on the grounds. The staff is bilingual; viumanent.cl.

It would be easy to spend the afternoon living the high life at Viu Manent, then scooting over to Santa Cruz for a more gritty experience. Chilean culture is evolving at a colorful and kinetic pace. There's something to toast high, low and in-between.

For more on Chilean art and how a novice can win the wine-making contest at Viu Manent, visit blogs.suntimes.com/hoekstra.

Information for this article was gathered on a research trip sponsored by the Chilean Fresh Fruit Association.

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22 Original Photos of Awesome Street Art in Santiago, Chile

Where: Santiago, Chile

February 22, 2012 10:16 PM | By JettSACD | Comments (0)



Some cities hate it, other cities embrace it like nothing else. We're talking about vibrant street art, and we'll tell you what—**Santiago, Chile** definitely falls into the latter category. Santi's walls, security gates, construction plywood and even some doors and windows get colorful treatments from some of the most creative cats with spray cans.

Believe it or not, the graffiti and stencil art isn't powerwashed away. In fact, artistic scenes that border on framed modern art are requested by businesses, to dress up their often uninspired exterior architecture. And while it's not Shepard Fairey or Banksy, around every corner, it's actually better because these artists are *local*, Santi-guan, Chilean, or least South American. In other words, the street art of Santiago isn't stuff you can just as easily find in New York or Berlin; it's completely all its own both influence- and aesthetic-wise.

Gallery: Street Art in Santiago, Chile



Where we went street art stalking: Barrio Brasil, Barrio Bellavista, central Santiago around the Mercado Central, the area around the Bellas Artes metro stop/Santa Lucia Hill, and a smidge near the Tobalaba metro stop. We know, we know—we're missing so many other great areas for spotting these sidewalk works of art, but there's always next time and more to look forward to.



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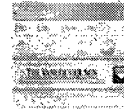
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STORY PHOTOS (4)



A worker harvests Sauvignon Blanc grapes, near Santiago, Chile. Chile is well on its way to revamping its image and wines.

Photograph by: Handout, Files

For anyone who's taken the time to travel to Chile, you know the nearly 11,000-kilometre trip as the crow flies is daunting. All the more reason to welcome the three dozen Chilean wine producers who have decided to come to Vancouver next week to headline the 34th Vancouver Playhouse International Wine festival.

It's been more than two decades since Chile began its export odyssey in Canada, and as you might expect, British Columbia was an early adopter. Yet despite 20 years of transactions, Chile's image as a supplier of cheap and cheerful wines has changed very little. Chile's success at the entry level is no fluke. They over deliver most of the time for less than \$15 dollars but, more often than not, I think buyers and other competitors are happy to leave them the value category as they move on to other levels.

Experience counts for something but in my estimation, as the long thin country begins to entice a second generation of Canadian wine consumers, they are going to have to come to grips with the fact that what worked in the 1990s or even the '00s in Vancouver is unlikely to be successful over the next decade. We are different drinkers with different needs.

In the case of Chile, what is required is a new way of thinking. One that is more longitudinal than latitudinal. That is to say, in warm, central Chile moving toward the coast or up the Andes to cooler sites is a must in a world enamoured with cool-climate wines. That said, precision wine growing is useless without precision marketing (precise appellations), and it is along this track Chile's future in the world wine business will be determined.

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There is nothing wrong with offering value, especially at all price points, but countries, and important wine regions, usually build their pedigree from the top down. As mentioned, the current Chilean mantra is to get to the coast or up the mountains. Neither area is cheap to farm; and we expect to pay more for such wine. The quality and, more importantly, the allure of Limari Syrah, Bio-Bio Pinot Noir, Marchigüe Carmenère, Leyda Sauvignon Blanc, Colchagua Grenache, San Antonio Chardonnay or Elqui Riesling, well, you name the region is so far removed from those early Chilean wines that it can and should provide the impetus for a major shift in the psychology of Chilean wine among retailers and consumers.

Arguing against value is not something I do lightly, but if it means the end of bland, faceless brands that satisfy the "loss leader" needs of huge retailers, I accept the challenge. Chile's identity as cheap and cheerful has to disappear if it is going to make the jump to prime-time wine producer. What's interesting is Chile is totally up for the challenge, and in fact is well on its way to revamping its image and wines. The only people who do not know are most of the world's buyers who seem to be happy keeping Chile in its cheap and cheerful place on shelves.

Chile's strength is its fabulously natural and isolated wine regions, uncontaminated by most of what goes on in North America. Naturally made wines, all of them, should be the focus for the next decade. My notes from numerous trips would suggest Syrah, Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc will likely be the stars of the next decade, along with the likes of carignan, Riesling and more innovative and creative red blends.

No one knows better what the wines of Chile have to offer than the Chileans but I fear some of their most exciting wines will not be on display this week because that value image has to be fed, and its buyers, both government and private, are quite content to let others have the key \$15 to \$25 category where new reputations are formed.

Your job is to get around the room and meet all the Chileans and have this conversation while you taste their wines. It's only by direct interaction that you will get the latest story, and it's not just Chile that has a story to tell.

There isn't near enough space to explore every story this week but there's another 139 globe-trotting wine types that would be happy to meet you and tell you their story. Most of the world is trying to figure out how they can ever pull off a wine festival like Playhouse, your job is to show up, stay enthusiastic, prod and push the producer to reveal their stories and in the end go home with a few of their wines. If that happens, there will be a 35th and 36th Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival, and perhaps by then the wines of Chile will have transformed their image from one of value to one that is valuable.

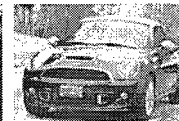
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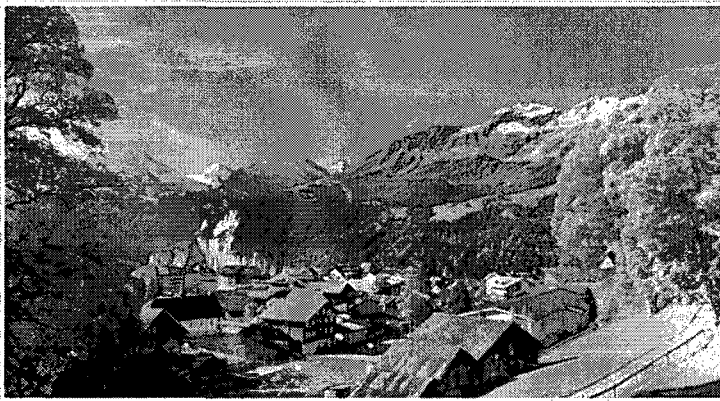
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BEAUTIFUL TOWNS

World's 16 Most Picturesque Villages

When it comes to picture-perfect views and suspended-in-time charm, it really does take a village. We went out searching for the most camera-ready communities on the planet and found 16 towns that fit the bill, from a Swiss village straight out of Heidi to an antebellum masterpiece in Georgia.

By Sandra Ramani, Friday, Feb 24, 2012, 3:08 PM | [Subscribe to the magazine](#)



Alpine views, traditional timber chalets, and the fact that cars have been banned for more than 100 years add up to make Wengen, Switzerland one of the most beautiful towns in the world. (tags: [forecast](#) / [SuperStock](#))

Spend a few minutes in these 16 villages and you'll realize that "quaint" and "charming" aren't just adjectives, they are a way of life. You'll find the unique beauty in the stone cottages of what has been dubbed the most beautiful village in England, along cobblestone streets lined with Gothic architecture in the Bohemia valley of Czech Republic, and within the adobe walls of a spiritual town in northern New Mexico. These are all functioning towns, with residents who keep local industries alive (check out the century-old trout farm) as well as preserving the town's look, which is why there's no building "taller than a coconut tree" on a certain Hawaiian island. The locals will be happy to clue you in to the best photo ops as well. Some of the spots are easier to get to than others (we've provided detailed info on how to reach them all below), but all are worthy of taking a detour—and mazing out your camera's memory card.

SEE THE 16 BREATHTAKING VILLAGES

Bibury, England

Located on the River Coln in hilly west-central England, Bibury was described by 19th-century artist-writer William Morris as "the most beautiful village in England"—which is saying something in a country known for its watercolor views. Honey-colored 17th-century stone cottages, the Saxon Church of St. Mary, and a still-working 1902 trout farm are some of the ancient village's must-sees. The most photographed spot is Arlington Row, a collection of 14th-century stone buildings that were converted into weavers' cottages in the 1500s.

Getting There: The closest train station to Bibury is 12 miles away, in Kemble. Multiple trains make the 80-minute journey from London's Paddington Station (from \$57 round-trip; [nationalrail.co.uk](#)). Cirencester, seven miles away, is linked to London by daily buses (from \$30 round-trip; [nationalexpress.com](#)). There is no public transport directly to Bibury, but taxis are available and local hotels will often arrange transport for guests.

Savoca, Italy

The ruins of the Castello di Pentefur stand guard above Savoca, a historic Sicilian village located on a hill between the cities of Messina and Taormina, on the island's east coast. Thought to be about 1,000 years old, the town was a stand-in for too-developed Corleone in *The Godfather*, and fans can still visit the Chiesa di Santa Lucia church on Via San Michele, where Michael Corleone was married, then trace the newlyweds' walk down to Bar Vitelli on Piazza Fossia for some cooling lemon granita. Don't miss a visit to the Cappuccini Monastery on the northern end of town to view the collection of mummified monks, some dating back to the 1700s.



Getting There: It's a little over an hour by car from the international airport in Catania to Savoca, or a scenic 40-minute drive from the popular resort town of Taormina. Many tour companies also offer day trips from Taormina, most of them with a *Godfather* theme (\$170 for up to three people; [sicilylimousineservice.com](#))

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Wengen, Switzerland

Thanks to an Alpine location and traditional timber chalets, Wengen is the Swiss village of your dreams and looks like something straight out of *Heidi* (the fact that cars have been banned here for more than 100 years also adds to the charm). The alpine mountain

village has been a tourist hub since the late 1800s, when notable guests like writer Mary Shelley sang Wengen's praises (she wrote *Frankenstein* while traveling in Switzerland, and described the Alps as "belonging to another earth"). Many of the belle époque hotels of the era remain, including the Hotel Bellevue (from \$235 per night; bellevue-wengen.ch). The village's altitude of almost 4,200 feet attracts skiers, of course, increasing the population almost ten-fold in the winter to around 10,000.

Getting There: Since cars are not allowed, travelers coming by road must park in Lauterbrunnen and take a 15-minute train ride up to town (\$3.50; swisstravelsystem.ch). Train service is available from Interlaken as well; the ride takes about 45 minutes from Wengen (\$7.45; swisstravelsystem.ch).

Eze, France

Sweeping Mediterranean views and tons of medieval charm have made this cliff-top town a popular stop on the French Riviera. Thanks to its key location near Nice, Eze was coveted by various invaders over the centuries, and this tangled history is reflected in its architecture—from the baroque church's Egyptian cross dating back to the Phoenicians to the Genoese-style bell turret on the 14th-century Chapelle de la Sainte Croix. Not surprisingly, the fairy-tale village was a favorite of Walt Disney's.

Getting There: Eze is about a 30-minute bus ride from Nice (\$1.50; lignesdazur.com) and 15 minutes from Monaco (\$1.50; lignesdazur.com).

Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic

One of the oldest villages in the Czech Republic, Cesky Krumlov is set in a valley in Bohemia south of the Blansko Forest and circled by the Vltava River. The village grew up around the 13th-century Gothic castle of the Lords of Krumlov, which has 40 buildings and palaces, gardens, and turrets and today is a major performing arts location. The cobblestone streets of Cesky Krumlov's Old Town are lined with Gothic, Baroque, and Renaissance buildings housing art galleries, cafes, and quaint B&Bs. One of the best ways to experience the town is to take a ride down the Vltava on a wooden raft (\$24; en.ceskykrumlov.info).

Getting There: Prague, about 110 miles away, is connected to Cesky Krumlov by a three-hour bus ride (\$10 each way; jizdnirady.idos.cz).

SEE THE VILLAGES!



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Göreme, Turkey

The iconic "fairy chimney" rock formations of Cappadocia surround the village of Göreme in Turkey's Central Anatolia region. First settled back in Roman times, the town (which has gone by several names throughout history) is today best known for its national park/open-air museum, which features some of the best-preserved examples of ancient cave churches and monasteries. The town itself has several "pigeon houses" carved right into the rocks. There are also funky cave hotels like the Kelbek Hotel, where 18 of the 35 rooms are carved into the cave (from \$53; kelbekhotel.com). Nearby Uchisar offers a great view of Göreme from its hilltop castle, the highest point in the valley.

Getting There: There are regular flights from Istanbul to Kayseri, about 43 miles from Göreme. Shuttle service is available from the airport (about \$13 each way; goreme.com) and most hotels can arrange transfers.

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Chimayó, New Mexico

An aura of mysticism and spirituality surrounds Chimayó, a tiny New Mexican village located in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, about half an hour north of Santa Fe. Settled by the Spanish in the late-1600s, the village became known for its weaving, farming, and livestock raising, all of which are still practiced today. In the 1800s, residents claimed that miraculous healings were happening near a recently unearthed crucifix, and in 1816 the Santuario de Chimayó chapel was constructed to mark these occurrences. Visitors—many looking to be healed—still come in droves to the chapel, which also serves as the end point for an annual pre-Easter pilgrimage.

Getting There: Chimayó is about 30 minutes north of Santa Fe and 75 minutes south of Taos.

Molokai, Hawaii

Though there are technically several residential communities on Molokai, the island has a total population of just about 8,000, making it pretty much a village itself. Home to Hawaii's longest continuing fringing reef and the world's highest sea cliffs, Molokai is often called "the real Hawaii"—there are no stoplights, there is a few against buildings "taller than a coconut tree," and more than half the residents are native Hawaiian. Activities include taking a mule ride in Kalapapapa National Historic Park, checking out the 19th-century mission-style churches and the state's longest pier in main town Kaunakakai, and strolling on three-mile-long, white-sand Papohaku Beach.

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Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada

Find a slice of Ye Olde England in Canada at the popular weekend-getaway town of Niagara-on-the-Lake on the shores of Lake Ontario. Originally inhabited by the Neutral Indian Tribe, the area was later settled by British Loyalists fleeing America at the onset of the American Revolution—and even later, served as a stop on the Underground Railroad. Today, visitors can check out historic sites like the restored Fort George and Butler's Barracks, the Niagara Apothecary museum, and dozens of well-kept Regency and Classical Revival buildings. Stroll along Queen Street, which has an array of quaint shops, tearooms, and B&Bs. The village has become famous for its theatrical Shaw Festival (running April through October) as well as wine celebrations at the dozens of vineyards in the area.

Getting There: Niagara-on-the-Lake is about an 80-minute drive from Buffalo, New York, and 90-minutes from Toronto, Canada. Shuttle service is available from airports in both cities, and from Niagara Falls (\$18 round-trip, 5-0-taxi.com).

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Madison, Georgia

Norman Rockwell meets *Gone with the Wind* in Madison, Georgia. Legend has it that General Sherman refused to burn down the village during his March to the Sea because it was so pretty. (The more likely reason was that Madison was home to a pro-Union mayor, but no one who's been there questions the "too beautiful" description.) Restored antebellum homes still stand alongside fragrant gardens and plenty of independent boutiques, restaurants, and inns. The small village is also known for its museums, covering fine art, history, and African American heritage, as well as the mini-automobile.

Getting There: Madison is a 60-minute drive east of

Atlanta and 40 minutes south of Athens.

Shirakawa-go, Japan

Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995, Shirakawa-go is known for its triangle-roof houses, built in a style known as *gassho*, that resemble hands folded in prayer. The hallmarks of the houses are roofs with 60-degree slopes (to help the snow slide off more easily) and attics used as warm spots for raising silkworms in winter. Not many of the traditional houses remain in the area, and some in Shirakawa-go (including the Wada House and Nagase House) are regularly open to the public. Once you've seen the interiors, head to the top of Ogimachi Castle for the best views of the houses as well as the surrounding Shogawa River Valley and mountains.

Getting There: Take the four-hour train ride from Tokyo to the town of Takayama (about \$178, includes a transfer in Nagoya, hyperdia.com). Nohi Bus operates several buses a day to Shirakawa-go. The ride takes about 50 minutes (\$54 roundtrip, nohibus.co.jp).

St. George, Bermuda

St. George is the oldest continually occupied English town in the Americas, and little has changed since the Brits established residence here in 1512. Sure, nowadays you've got gourmet restaurants, hopping bars, and upscale shops specializing in things like hand-rolled cigars and custom-made perfumes. But it's all surrounded by beautifully preserved colonial architecture and historic sites like Fort St. Catherine, the 17th-century stone State House, and St. Peter's Church, the oldest continuously occupied Anglican church in the Western Hemisphere.

Caleta Tortel, Chile

Caleta Tortel is the Venice of Chile—if Venice had stilt houses and wooden walkways instead of ornate palazzi and stone bridges. The colorfully painted houses in this south Chilean village are built on skinny, raised stilts in the Chilota style typical to the region, and are connected by a network of staircases and footbridges built over rocks and marshes. The growing cypress-logging industry led to Caleta Tortel's founding in 1955. Timber is still the main game in town, as evidenced by the wooden architecture and the sweet cypress smell lingering in the air.

Getting There: Like Venice, no cars are allowed in Caleta Tortel. A small airstrip to the east receives limited flights from the Patagonian town of Coyhaique. If you do want to drive, there is now overland access via the Carretera Austral. Plan on an 80-mile drive from the town of Cochrane. Drivers must park at a lot outside of town, then wheel luggage down the village's steep slopes.

Sidi Bou Said, Tunisia

It's blue and white for as far as the eye can see in Sidi Bou Said. All of the buildings in this cliff-top village in northern Tunisia are stark white and adorned with vivid blue doors, shutters, and decorative ironwork—and backed by the deeper blues of the Bay of Tunis. Sometimes called the Montmartre of Tunisia, the village was a favorite of Swiss-German painter Paul Klee and writers Colette and Simone de Beauvoir. The bohemian vibe exists today, with day trippers coming to stroll the stone streets and visit the galleries and cafés.

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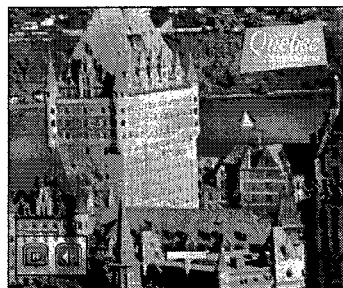
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Getting There: Sidi Bou Said is 13 miles from Tunis, and accessible via road or the TGM train (about \$3 round-trip). Day tours are available.

Pariangan, West Sumatra, Indonesia

The active Mount Marapi volcano looms over this spot in Indonesia's Western Sumatra province, a protected national monument. Pariangan is said to be the oldest—and most culturally significant—village of the Minangkabau people and has numerous well-preserved examples of traditional Minangkabau pointed-roof architecture, including a 300-year-old house with woven rattan walls and wood carvings and a 19th-century mosque with still-operating communal hot springs.

Getting There: Pariangan is about nine miles by car from Batusangkar, the capital of the Tanah Datar regency in western Sumatra. The closest airport is in Padang, linked by air to major cities like Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur.

Cua Van, Vietnam

Quaint villages usually up the charm factor with cobblestone streets and restored historic architecture. But it's the complete lack of roads and buildings that makes Cua Van a must-see. Set among the dramatic limestone cliffs of Vietnam's Ha Long Bay, the floating village is made up of a collection of docked boats and colorful raft houses. (Not surprisingly, locals make their living through fishing and marine aquaculture.) Everything here bobs in the bay, even the school, to which students row in tiny boats.

Getting there: Ha Long Bay is about 100 miles from Hanoi. The six-hour bus ride from the city to the bay costs about \$8 each way and tickets are available from travel agencies near Hanoi's Hoan Kiem Lake. Once you arrive at the bay, go to the tourist ferry dock, where boats are for hire to sail the 12 miles to Cua Van (prices vary, as does the quality of the boats, but typically cost around \$20). Overnight cruises from Hanoi to Ha Long Bay also typically include Cua Van in the itinerary (from \$188 per person, halongparadisecruises.org).

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(THINKSTOCK PHOTO)

Chilean wines featured at local wine festival

The annual event will have 791 wines from 15 countries

John Strell » Feb 26, 2012 10:14:00 AM

VANCOUVER (NEWS1130) - Starting Monday, the wine world will be here for the 34th Annual Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival.

The theme region for this year's festival is Chilean wine.

Executive Director Harry Hertscheg tells News1130 Chilean wine was chosen because of its evolution over

the past ten years. "Chile has an amazing diversity of wines in 14 different valleys. What we are really doing this year is introducing a world of Chilean wine that has never been seen in Vancouver before."

"When you think of Chile, you think of this thin little country in South America. What you have to imagine is taking the Canadian Rockies, moving it to Hope, doubling the height of the mountains, and then imagine a country from Alaska to El Salvador," explains Hertscheg.

The key to a great Chilean wine is location. "The vineyards that are close to the ocean and up on hills or mountains have cooler evenings, which give the wines a bit of crispness and bright fruit," says Hertscheg.

Both red and white wines will be featured.

Some 'vine stars' will be pouring your wine, including Eduardo Chadwick who is doing a tasting next Thursday.

The festival will have 791 wines from 15 different countries.

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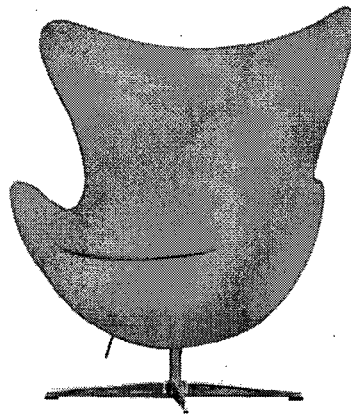
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MONTHLY ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR TURISMO CHILE
Public Relations, Trade & Advertising Program
February 2012

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Individual/Group Press Trips

The agency continued media outreach for the group trip – tentatively scheduled for March 15 or 16 through the 26th or 27th – with four participants confirmed. LAN media request forms submitted middle February to TC who sent them on to LAN – and we also sent them later in the month to LAN Chile directly.

We further facilitated discussion between writer J. Sturz and A. Sassoon of Dos Lagos (with visit tentatively scheduled for March 15-19 for a feature in *Robb Report*) and with K. Schreck for Hangaroa on Easter Island (scheduled after Dos Lagos visit), and sent LAN media forms. Sturz and his writer spouse Paula de la Cruz agreed to handle their accommodations in Santiago – and travel from Argentina to Chile – with TC approaching LAN Chile for domestic air (including Santiago to Easter Island) and international air. Despite TC's and the agency's best efforts, LAN's slow response made it necessary for agency to purchase outbound international tickets for these A list journalists or risk losing them (with the pair's assignments including *The Atlantic*, *The Robb Report*, *Tablet Talk*, *Fathom* and others). LAN ultimately did provide the other necessary flights.

Prior to this the agency prepared a procedures document outlining an approach for obtaining tickets from LAN we believed would improve the process in everyone's best interests.

Media Relations/News Bureau

We supplied story suggestions on Santiago and a link to Santiago Adventures bicycle tours to Andrew Buckley, producer of a pair of public television shows in Boston for children – in support of an upcoming trip with a crew sponsored by Australis Cruceros.

The agency supplied suggested story ideas and links to affordable accommodations to blogger Renee King for her May 7-16 trip to Santiago and Easter Island with her daughter for her budget blog "A View to Thrill" – ("sample the world at a fraction of the price").

Chicago Sun Times music, arts and travel columnist ("Detours") and staff writer David Hoekstra asked if we could obtain a complimentary or media rate ticket on LAN Chile for him to attend the Lollapalooza Festival in Santiago end of March/beginning of April. We put out the initial feelers and tried to make this happen – and discussed it directly with Megan Kat at LAN Chile. She suggested an approach but then was not available for follow up. David's intention was to use his time in Santiago to compare the festival there to the one in Chicago – and to write another piece about the nightlife, arts and culture scene in Santiago for his youthful audience. It became clear that we were not going to be able to support his request.

Journalist Margaret Loftus (a contributor to *National Geographic Traveler*) asked us to put her in touch with representatives of one or two lesser-known ski resorts in Chile (i.e., not Portillo) for a roundup of "underrated" ski properties or regions for CNN.com. Liaising with TC for suggestions, we also put Margaret in touch with Kristina Schreck so she could learn more about Valle Nevado (which she asked about). We learned from KS that ML may participate in a Patagonia and wine country bicycle tour in November 2012 (from Santiago Adventures) – to assess its inclusion as one of *National Geographic Traveler's* "Tours of a Lifetime" for 2013.

Beyond Portillo and Valle Nevado, TC (AS and AZ) made some excellent suggestions including ski resorts further south in Chile, e.g., Chillan (www.skichilan.cl), Pucon (www.skipucon.cl) and Osorno (www.volcanosorno.com), as well as Corralco (www.corralco.com/sitio/ where a new lodge is being built near the Lonquimay Volcano close to Temuco; Antillanca (www.antillanca.cl) located inside Puyehue National Park by Casablanca Volcano; and El Arpa Ski (www.skiarp.com) with accommodations located an hour way in Los Andes. This would make a good news release for the winter season – including several ski packages to offer a bookable component.

We reached out to editor Brooke Porter at *Travel + Leisure* – to follow up on previous discussions with senior editor Clara Sedlak and contributor Anna Watson about new properties in Chile, offering to assist with info, story ideas, contacts in Chile, etc. Brooke mentioned T + L plans to cover Patagonia in the near future based on the many new developments there.

Agency continued to try to recruit a journalist for the *Antarctic Dream* voyage on February 15 – right up to the last minute. Despite interest (from such cruise writers as Susan Farlow and Fran Golden), suitable media were not available on short notice.

Agency provided Becca Hensley – contributor to *National Geographic Traveler*, *Toronto Star*, *Fodor's*, *Austin American Statesman*, *Spa* and others – with information on noteworthy spas at the Hotel Antumulal, Alto Atacama and Hangiroa for the research she was conducting on South American spas.

We also supplied several story ideas and background to Elaine Glusac, a freelance writer planning on visiting Patagonia (to be hosted or provided with a media rate by Tierra Patagonia and possibly The Singular), in March. Her outlets include *The New York Times*.

Nancy Novogrod, editor in chief of *Travel + Leisure*

The agency reviewed and made initial comments on itinerary suggestions for Nancy's visit to Santiago in April and supplied TC with a draft copy of an itinerary developed by Tourism New Zealand for a writer visiting New Zealand for *Forbes Life* – as a possible template to follow in the event that a comprehensive itinerary and suggestions were needed for Novogrod's visit.

Sea Trade Shipping Conference in Miami in March

The agency reviewed and made comments and suggested edits to the press release TC and partners drafted for distribution at the SeaTrade (Shipping) Conference in Miami in March. We also planned to review the list of media in attendance – to recommend those we think TC should invite to its cocktail event at the booth it is sharing with other Chilean authorities.

Group Press Trip – Mid-March

Tim Smith, editor of *Luxury Latin America*, has repeatedly requested airfare to Chile to continue what he describes as the "best coverage of luxury hotels anywhere." On our declining – based on our and TC analysis of the site – he asked to join group trip. We also declined at this time.

The agency worked to finalize plans and participants for the March press trip – with departure from the US set as the middle of March. Four writers (below) were tentatively confirmed with specific arrangements to be completed first week March. Brian Major noted he will need to return to NYC from the Lake District on Day Eight, with the other three deciding to continue on to Patagonia (rather than Chiloe). With TC, we began to discuss accommodations including prospects of the Noi and The Aubrey in Santiago as well as The Singular, Tierra Patagonia, Patagonia Camp and even Patagonia Sur for the three writers continuing to Patagonia.

- **Brian Major** – Latin America editor of *Travelpulse.com*, *Vacation Agent* and *Agent@Home* wants to visit Chile in 2012 to write several destination feature articles
- **John Oseid** – a top freelance writer whose outlets include *About.com*, *Cigar Aficionado*, *Blackbook*, *Forbes Life*, *Elite Traveler*, *Sherman's Travel*, *Huffington Post* and others
- **Joe Yogerst** – freelance writer with such outlets as *Islands*, *Sur y Centro*, *DestinAsia*, *Modern Bride*, *San Diego Union-Tribune*, *Forbes*, *National Geographic Traveler* and others.
- **Elyse Glickman** – a freelancer who covers food and beverage, romance and travel for such outlets as *Jewish Exponent*, *CSQ (C Suite Quarterly)*, *The Tasting Panel*, *Tribe*, et.al.

Individual Journalists (Updated but also includes those in January report) with whom we're exploring future prospects:

- **Joyce Gregory Wyels** – *Américas Magazine* – California-based freelancer contributes regularly to this scholarly publication which delves deeply into Latin American cultures while evoking a sense of place. Might be worth revisiting if she can add other outlets added to the mix
- **Lisa Rojak** – she writes for such outlets as *Fox News Latino*, *Ocean Home Magazine*, *Real Eats* (Barbara Fairchild editor), *Wine Enthusiast*, et. al
- **Marybeth Bond** – writes for *USAToday.com* and several blogs worth considering
- **Iris Brooks** – *World & I*, *Washington Times* and others
- **Andrew McCarthy** – the agency remains in touch with the US TV and film actor who writes for big outlet media and has editorial interests in the Atacama, Easter Island and Patagonia. Scheduling has been problematic
- **Steven Winston** – has interest from *Smithsonian Magazine* for a story in 2012 and may be able to get assignments from *AAA Going Places* and others
- **Lori Henry** – columnist for *TripAtlas.com*, *Reader's Digest*, *VIA destinations*, *VIA magazine* (the AAA Traveler's Companion), *FLARE*, *Western Living*, *Fodor's*, *Spa*, *USAToday.com* and others.
- **G.B. Gallagher** - *National Geographic Traveler*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Virgin Airlines*, *AAA Living Magazine* and others
- **Kayleigh Kulp** – writes about romance, spas, health & wellness, food & wine for *Food + Wine*, *Wine Spectator*, *Wine Enthusiast*, *Miami Herald*, *Los Angeles Times* and others
- **Emma Sloley** – *Indagare* (luxury lodges/hotels, food and adventure, Patagonia), *Town & Country*, *Flare magazine* (www.flare.com) in Canada and others.
- **Ted Alan Steadman** – three potential assignments include the inflight magazine of Alaska Airlines (a LAN mileage plan partner), *Dreamscape Destinations* (Canada), and *Global Traveler*.
- **Nicole Whitney Sobel** – interested in "the other Patagonia" for outlets including *MSNBC.com*, *Sherman's Travel*, *TravelGirl*, *GoNomad.com*, *Budget Travel* and others.

ADDITIONAL SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR DISCUSSION AFTER JUNE

Richard Bangs vignettes – integrated web series with *Huffington Post*, *Vimeo* and *Orbitz* with possibility for a special PBS production.

Luxury wine tours ("La Dolce Vita Journeys") – produced by Roberto Mitrotti of *The Compulsive Traveler* (with potential co-sponsorship of *Wines of Chile* or others).

Partner Requests

The agency liaised with Lanny Grossman, PR for *The Singular*, Patagonia, about the prospect of TC supporting or adding writers to a LAN Chile trip in April – although it was unclear if the trip was proceeding or if the budget exists for TC to assist.

Continued to liaise with Kristina Schreck on behalf of James Sturz and Paula de la Cruz (for *Hangaroa* and *The Aubrey*) and with Maureen Poschman handling PR for *Tierra Patagonia*.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

Top Chef

The agency held a conference call with Megan Kat of LAN about the project – which she endorsed enthusiastically. In addition, we made changes to the draft “offer letter” and forwarded it on to Turismo Chile for further input with the idea of sending it to the show’s production company this month – to trigger negotiations on specific elements of “the ask.” At the end of February, C. Luna sent the agency a spreadsheet breaking out what TC and partners were prepared and able to provide to Magical Elves in support of the production.

Born to Explore on ABC

Agency held several more discussions with host Richard Wiese and producer Mercedes Velgot – with exchanges on stories, timing and logistics based on their shooting needs. It was agreed the shoot would be in May – with host and producer favoring mid-May but agreeing to leave the date open. Focus of ten-day shoot remains Santiago, areas within reach of Santiago (e.g., Horcon fishing village), and the Atacama’s Atacameno community and cultural traditions.

EVENTS

Travel + Leisure Global Bazaar

Continued discussions between T+L and TC on creating Easter Island installation for the Global Bazaar in September 2012. Began research on creating replicas of Moai statues for the event as well as to use for pre- and post-show promotion. Awaiting estimates from production companies to build the Moai statues.

Alexandra’s March Visit to NYC

Booked accommodations for A. Munoz at Flatiron Hotel from March 19-24. Began reaching out to media and partners to schedule meetings during A. Munoz’s visit in NYC.

TRADE RELATIONS

Researched U.S. events and fairs for TC to consider participation including New York Times Travel Show

Coop Programs

A conference call was held with Travel Impressions to discuss different itineraries for their 2013 program. Agency also received a proposal from LATOUR re developing a co-op marketing program. They also sent a proposal for a Travel Agent Roadshow, in the fall.

FAM Trip-Wines of Chile

Agency worked with Gail Thornton from Wines of Chile to put a FAM trip together for Tour Operators to experience Santiago and the Wine region. Agency reached out to 20 TO’s to build a group of 5-10. Due to the short time frame with the trip taking place five weeks later it was a challenging project. Agency expanded the number of tour operators to 30 and managed to get considerable interest. The major problem was the short timeframe. Agency secured five TO’s and liaised with Gail Thornton and TC to answer all their questions. Trip is scheduled to depart on March 10th. In future we would recommend sending the invitations out 10-12 weeks prior to the trip. Based on the interest we believe we would have 8-10 TO’s to participate.

SeaTrade

Reviewed U.S. media list and advised A. Munoz which media they should invite to the Chile Booth welcome cocktail event. Reviewed cruise press release for A. Munoz.

Virtuoso

Continued discussions with Virtuoso regarding the 2012 program. Turismo Chile confirmed that the budget for the Virtuoso 2012 marketing program should not exceed \$100,000.

ATTA

Held discussion regarding TC's sponsorship at ATTA including hosting the cocktail reception. Considered partnerships with outdoor brands such as Eddie Bauer, Outdoor Research and Teva. Eddie Bauer is interested in participating in a major promotion with TC, but will have to delay due to management changes at the company

ADVERTISING

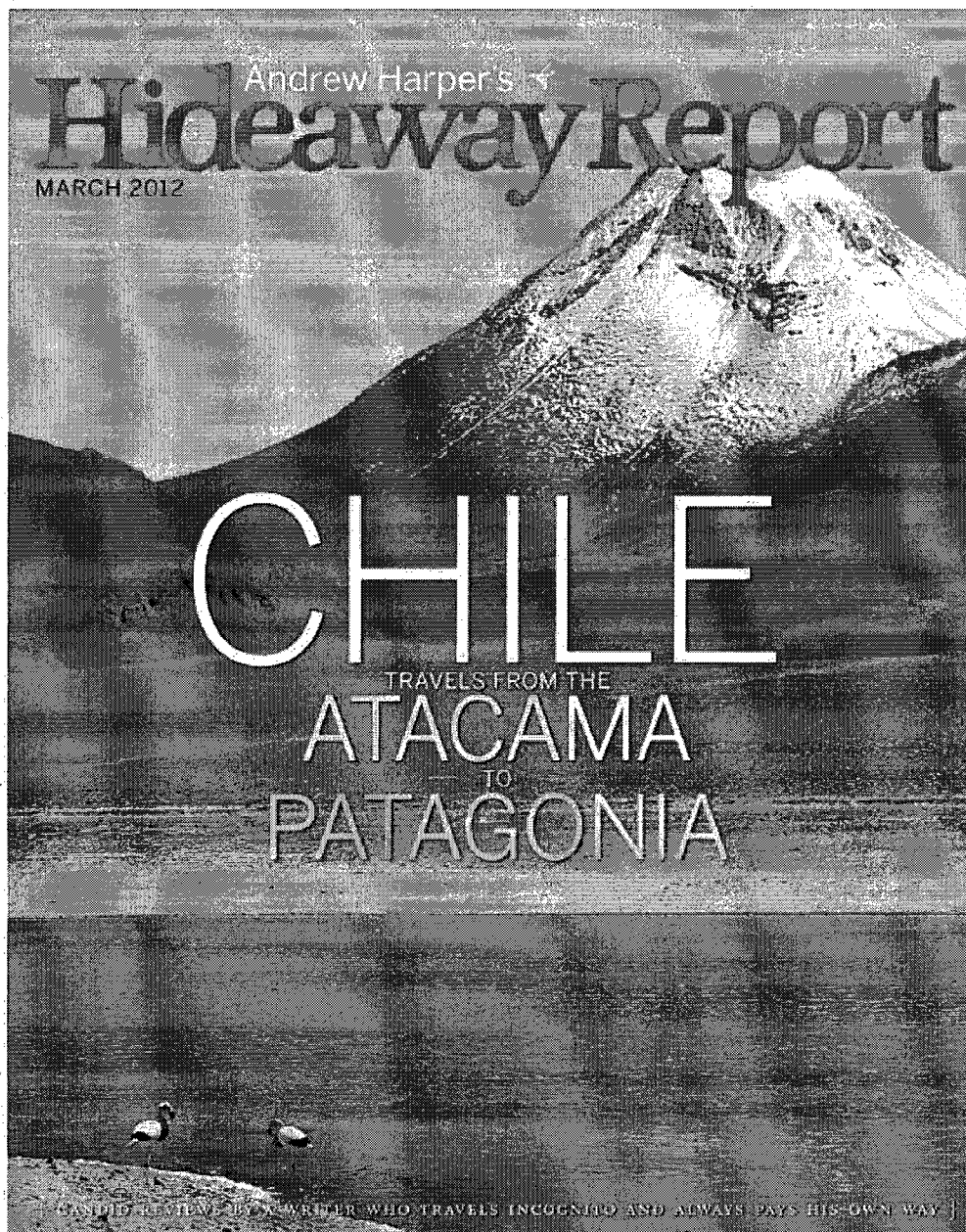
- Status call on 15th
- Coordinated prize winner (Saveur) and handover to Alejandra Saenz
- Meeting with Travel + Leisure to develop potential Global Bazaar participation
- Reviewed advertising opportunity: CBS Spectacular and Macy's Vision in New York City
- Briefing discussion re: additional opportunities for The View marketing brochure
- Status call on 27th to review advertising program
- Developed proposal for additional uses for The View Magazine

CLIENT RELATIONS

- Participated in calls with Turismo Chile and other execs
- Liaised with TC partners and individual public relations teams
- Assisted with invoice and budget adjustments

MISCELLANEOUS

- Discussion with C. Luna and A. Munoz regarding estimate to build new crates for pod and hold it in warehouse until May. Researched relevant museums to donate miner's pod and sent to TC for review.
- Continued to contact partners (ProChile, Puro Chile, American Airlines, etc.) to gauge interest in distributing Chile's *View Magazine*. Sent desired number of shipment for each partner to TC.
- Held in-person meeting with public relations team for Tierra Hotels to discuss current and upcoming press trips, and where we could support each other.



DREAM

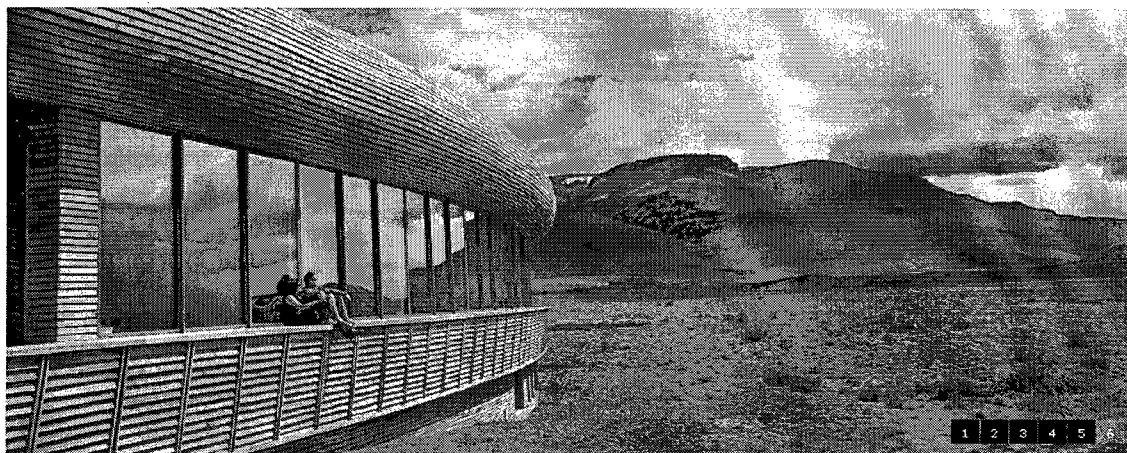
PLAN

SHARE

AUCTIONS

WHO IS ANDREW HARPER?

JOIN



Tierra Patagonia, Torres del Paine, Chile

Chile: Travels From the Atacama to Patagonia

Source: March 2012 Hideaway Report



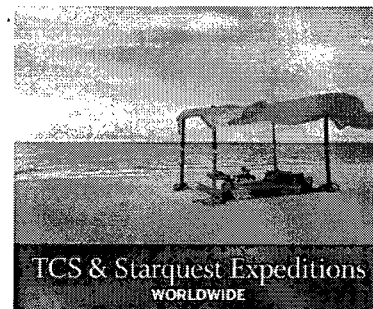
Chile is nearly 3,000 miles long, but averages just 112 miles wide. As a result, it offers astonishing geographic and climatic diversity. Its economy grew at a robust 7 percent last year, enabling a speedy recovery from the severe earthquake of 2010. The country also boasts one of the best-developed infrastructures in South America. At the end of our recent trip, we were fully convinced that Chile has come of age for sophisticated travelers.

The northern third of the country is dominated by the Atacama Desert, a spectacular region of salt flats, geysers and volcanic peaks. The central section is blessed with a Mediterranean climate that nurtures a wide range of agricultural products, including wine grapes. To the south, Patagonia is a land of windswept steppes, vertiginous mountains and massive glaciers. The summer high season is from December 15 to late February. During spring and fall, temperature extremes in the Atacama are mitigated, and the weather in Patagonia is relatively predictable.

Chile's capital, Santiago, is home to almost 6 million people. We seldom felt ourselves to be in such a large city, however, perhaps because of the tree-lined boulevards and the low-rise buildings of the business and government districts. In fact, Santiago seems like a smaller Buenos Aires, with a European style embodied in structures such as the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (National Museum of Fine Arts), housed within an elegant neoclassical building, and the Mercado Central (Central Market), with its filigreed steel framework imported from Britain.

My advice would be to spend a night or two in Santiago to relax after the long flight, even though the city has a surprisingly limited range of hotels. For some years, I have recommended *The Ritz-Carlton*, and this remains my preferred address. There is no Four Seasons, no Park Hyatt and no venerable grand hotel of any distinction. The W Santiago opened in November 2009 and will appeal to the self-consciously fashionable. (The principal room categories are "Wonderful" and "Spectacular," and, according to the website, the bar is open until 3 a.m. and Beyoncé was a recent guest!)

However, tucked away on a quiet side street in the upscale neighborhood of Providencia, *Le Reve* is a 31-room property of considerable charm. Housed within a restored mansion, it models itself on a small Parisian hotel. The guest rooms feature high ceilings, tall windows, dark-wood furniture and the warm light of table lamps, all of which combine to create a cozy and relaxing ambience. The downside is that the rooms are not particularly spacious, with correspondingly small baths, although these are handsomely done in honey-hued marble. Rooms #210 and #211 have their own terraces, but must be booked far in advance.



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The delightful public areas include a large lounge with well-stocked bookcases and French doors that lead to a Provencal pebbled courtyard sheltered by a large tree. There, a European-style buffet breakfast is served each morning. Afternoon tea is followed by a happy hour. Although there is no restaurant, a charming little kitchen area near the front entrance serves snacks until late in the evening.

During our stay, the staff were consistently friendly and always on hand to offer useful advice and to secure restaurant reservations. If the rooms were larger, I would give La Rêve a higher rating. It is, however, an appealing alternative to Santiago's high-rise hotels.

Le Reve 84 Deluxe Super King, \$299. Orrego Luxo 023, Santiago. Tel. (56) 2-757-6000.

The Atacama Desert

When NASA scientists want to test the capabilities of their Mars exploration vehicles, they come to the Atacama. Stretching for 600 miles south of the Peruvian border, it is the driest place on earth, with some areas having no recorded rainfall. The desert's 40,000 square miles contain vast tracts of red sand, towering wind-sculpted rocks, crystalline salt formations that eerily groan and creak as the temperature changes, and 20,000-foot snowcapped volcanic peaks, many of which are still active.

Thanks to snowmelt runoff, however, the region is not devoid of life. Streams sustain a marvelous variety of animals, birds and plants, including graceful camelids such as the llama and vicuña; the shy, rabbit-like viscacha; and the elusive puma. Waterfowl abound, and you are also likely to see ibis and flamingos.

Our base was San Pedro de Atacama, a 90-minute drive from the regional airport in Calama. San Pedro is a small oasis town with a charming central plaza, low-rise adobe buildings and streets thronged with adventurers and tourists. We had opted to stay at Awasi, just outside the town center. Screened by rustic wood gates, this proved to be an enchanting little sanctuary. Modeled after the traditional architecture of Tulum, a local Indian site dating from 800 B.C., the heart of the property is a large circular area defined by sienna-hued adobe walls inset with rows of local stones. There, inviting chaises longues flank a small pool. Thatched roofs supported by sculpted tree trunks cover a small bar, an open-air dining area and a number of sitting alcoves. Displays of local handicrafts, plus colorful cushions and throw pillows (their cases made from native rugs), all help to create a sophisticated design scheme reminiscent of the best of Santa Fe.



Five of Awasi's eight rooms are set around this central area. Adobe walls, thatched roofs and dark-wood floors are enhanced by dramatic lighting schemes. Wi-Fi is complimentary, and there is a clever JBL iPod/iPhone dock, but no television. There is also no air-conditioning, but thanks to the traditional construction, opening the windows creates a reliable flow of cool air. Baths are faced with stone and come with separate showers (the larger rooms have soaking tubs) and lead to private patios with outdoor showers. Rooms #1, #3 and #5 are the largest; for additional space, they can be combined, via a shared patio, with the smaller #2 and #4. The other three rooms are across a road in a separate compound. Taken together, they would be ideal for a large family group.

Having booked at Awasi, you receive a 17-page list of possible activities! Each room has its own dedicated guide, driver and four-wheel-drive vehicle, so you can tailor your excursions without having to accommodate the priorities of other guests. Highlights of our stay included a hike through the so-called Valley of the Moon, with its startling salt structures; an excursion to El Tatio geysers, a field of geothermal springs in which our guide boiled eggs for breakfast to perfection; and an all-day journey to the Tara Salt Flat, with its "cathedral" rock formations, among which we enjoyed a picnic lunch of smoked salmon, cold roast beef, cookies and wine.

Rapire LAS Vegas Montana Munich museums

Normandy Port-en-Bessin restaurants Rue Tatin

shopping Stéphane Carbone Susan Loomis Turkey

Utah video wildlife

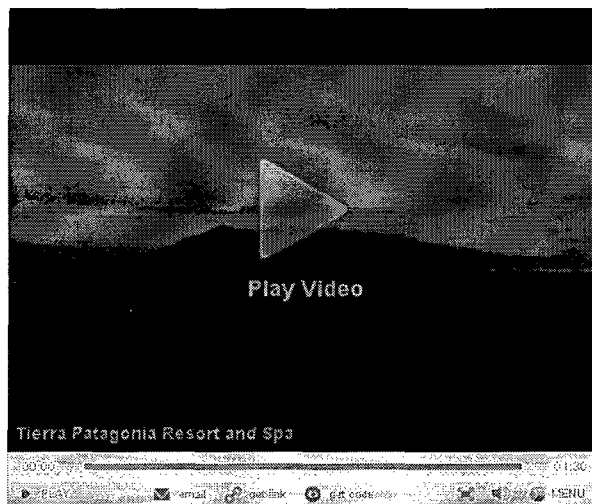
The food at Awasi is exceptional. During our stay, we enjoyed dishes such as ravioli filled with a mix of shrimp and creamed corn in a sun-dried tomato sauce; an elevated take on lomo, strips of sirloin marinated in soy and served on a bed of herbed rice; and a superb squid-ink pasta with salmon and smoked salmon in a gentle salmon-cream sauce. Some of the dining room staff are not fluent in English, but their solicitous attitude is more than sufficient compensation. Clearly, the tone is set by the charming manager, Virginia Contreras, whose vocabulary does not include the word "no."

Awasi 97 Round Room, \$1,500 per person for a two-night minimum stay; rates include all meals, beverages including wine, private daily excursions and transfers to and from Calama airport. Superior Round Suite, \$1,710. Tocopilla 4, San Pedro de Atacama. Tel. (568) 880-3219 or (56) 2-233-9541.

Southern Patagonia

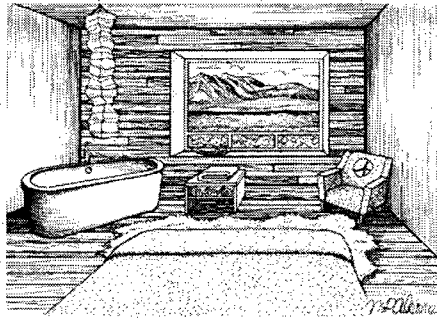
Shared between Chile and Argentina, southern Patagonia is chiefly a land of vast, desolate steppes, though the Chilean section also has areas of conifer and beech forest. High precipitation and cold air combine to create huge glaciers that spill into numerous fjords. Our primary goal was the scenically dramatic Torres del Paine National Park, a four-hour drive from the airport at Punta Arenas. (The airport at Puerto Natales is much closer, but the runway is currently being lengthened and is scheduled to reopen in 2014.) On December 27, 2011, a fire broke out in the center of the park. Abetted by drought conditions and high winds, it quickly spread and was not brought under control until early January. The *explora Patagonia Hotel Salto Chito* - which I have long recommended - was in an area that burned, but fortunately, the lodge was spared. Most of the park reopened in January, but the damage to grasslands and old-growth forest was considerable.

Located on the eastern border of the park, the new *Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa* was unaffected by the conflagration. After the long drive from Punta Arenas, I was initially taken aback by its external appearance - the design recalls an "old fossil, a prehistoric animal beached on the lakeshore, like those drawn by Charles Darwin," according to architect Gazu Zegarras - but inside, it proved to be an utterly remarkable building dominated by a grand sweep of immense floor-to-ceiling windows. Once I could drag my gaze from the extraordinary view across Lago Sarmiento to the breathtaking granite monoliths of the Cordillera del Paine, I became increasingly impressed by my surroundings.



Constructed almost entirely from the lovely native lenga wood, the great room seamlessly unites a sitting area containing a circular fireplace with a bar and a dining space. The interplay of a wood ceiling, walls constructed from boards of differing lengths, and wood floorboards laid at an angle give the design a remarkable feeling of energy and flow. The 40 guest rooms (including three duplex suites) display the same aesthetic and are appointed with simple but handsome furniture that imparts a Shaker-like elegance to their interiors. Well-lit baths come with separate showers and soaking tubs. (Wi-Fi is available in the library.)

On arrival, we met with a guide to plan our program of activities. We began with a wonderful four-hour trek called the "Condoreras," which, as well as panoramic views of the extraordinary landscape, provides the opportunity to see huge Andean condors, with their 10-foot wingspans. For the less energetic, the two-hour "Hidden Backyard" hike wanders through an area close to the lodge where you are likely to spot llama-like guanacos, foxes and ostrich-like rhea. Within the hotel, the Uma Spa features an indoor swimming pool with jets and cascades, an outdoor Jacuzzi, a sauna and a steam bath.



In the property's dining area, seating options include larger tables to sustain the camaraderie of group excursions. During our stay, it seemed that the kitchen was still getting up to speed — we had overcooked meat one night — but many dishes were excellent, and we particularly enjoyed succulent, firm-fleshed reineta fish served with shrimp on a bed of lentils. The service was excellent, as it was everywhere in the hotel.

Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa 96 Double Room, \$1,950 per person for a three-night minimum stay; rates include all meals, daily excursions, house drinks and wines, and the use of the spa facilities (massages and treatments extra). Suite, \$2,600. Ruta 9 at Ruta Y156, Torres del Paine. Tel. (800) 829-5325 or (56) 2-361-7000.

Though it is just an hour or so away from Tierra Patagonia, the thriving town of Puerto Natales is another world. A bustling port of 20,000 people, it is home to a large fishing fleet. Just short of the town, our driver pulled off the main road, mistakenly, I thought, as it looked as though we were headed to an old industrial area. **The Singular Patagonia** opened last November and is surrounded by early 20th-century buildings that once comprised a giant meatpacking and refrigeration plant, from which lamb was shipped all over the world. Once of critical importance to Chile's economy, the site was named a National Historic Landmark in 1996.

Carefully using the viable structures — most notably a huge brick warehouse — the new hotel also saved much of the industrial equipment. Fifty-seven guest quarters were added in a historically appropriate style. The property is constructed on a hillside, so on arrival, we were escorted to a small funicular that took us down to reception. The lobby retains the original brick walls, but a new floor has been suspended above the old.

The most striking feature of our room was an 18-foot-wide glass wall with a compelling view of the sea and distant snowy peaks. Sinking into a chair, I sat gazing out across the fjord, watching the seabirds and the racing clouds. Decorated in shades of gray, our lodgings proved eminently comfortable and were appointed with traditional furniture and outsize black-and-white photographs from the plant's industrial heyday. A large dressing room led to an equally spacious bath with a separate shower and a freestanding tub. (Rooms and suites come with or without television, but all provide Wi-Fi.)

The Singular's atmospheric restaurant, bar and lounge are dramatically situated on two levels in a converted warehouse. The ground-level bar and lounge, filled with overstuffed couches and chairs, proved to be a congenial spot to gather after the day's activities. In the dining room, the exceptional food employs Chilean produce wherever possible. Standouts included king crab ceviche, Patagonia lamb loin chops, and roasted salmon on a bed of just-tender lentils.

The variety of excursions is impressive. We especially enjoyed forays aboard one of the hotel's two speedboats to see nearby glaciers. A memorable bird-watching tour took us to a wetlands area where, perched on a hilltop, we were able to watch black-faced ibis, white-tufted grebe and distinctive black-necked swans. We were accompanied by Pedro, a guide whose infectious love of the land and its creatures added enormously to the pleasure of our stay. Returning to the hotel, we retreated to the spa with its indoor/outdoor pool for a soothing massage.

My one caveat about The Singular is that, owing to the complexity of the layout, there seemed to be a degree of unnecessary confusion at times, a situation not helped by the manager, a pleasant if diffident young woman, who appeared reluctant to intervene. That said, The Singular offers a fascinating glimpse of Patagonia's history, and we would not have wanted to miss it.

The Singular Patagonia 92 Singular Room, \$580 per person, per night, all meals included, November-March peak season. Singular Suite, \$865. Puerto Bories s/n. Tel. (56) 61-722-030.



Just west of Santiago lies a rich agricultural region known as the Central Valley, a delightful area of fields, orchards and vineyards blessed by a benign climate. This is the heart of Chile's burgeoning wine industry. Among the names you will find on Chilean wine labels are the Aconcagua, Maipo, Cachapoal and Colchagua valleys. Lapostolle is set in the Colchagua Valley and is the realized dream of Alexandra Marnier. Lapostolle, a scion of the family that created the French liqueur Grand Marnier. Today, Lapostolle produces a range of wines, preeminent among which is Clos Apalta, a red blend of Carmenère (78 percent), Cabernet Sauvignon (19 percent) and Petit Verdot (3 percent). In 2008, Wine Spectator named the 2005 Clos Apalta its wine of the year.

The Lapostolle Residence is set above the winery and comprises a Main House, plus four sumptuous casitas. The latter have cream-colored walls, wood floors, accents of leather and colored silk, and woodburning fires. The baths are clad in stone tile and are equipped with soaking tubs and separate showers. The Main House is a study in contemporary elegance, with a spacious living room/library that leads out to a lovely terrace where meals are taken, weather permitting. The food is superb, and we savored dishes such as grilled shrimp with barley risotto, and filet of beef in a red-wine reduction. Different Lapostolle wines are served with each course, and we especially admired the Casa Sauvignon Blanc and the Cuvée Alexandre Pinot Noir. Activities include horseback riding and bicycling, plus tours of neighboring wineries such as Montes and Neyen (for a full description, see the *Hideaway Report* digital edition).



The Lapostolle Residence is a place of genuine sophistication and gracious hospitality. It should feature on the itinerary of anyone with an interest in wine, and, given its relative proximity to Santiago's airport, it provides a perfect end to a Chilean journey.

Lapostolle Residence 97 Casita, \$500 per person, per night; rates include all meals, a private tour and tasting at Clos Apalta winery, and visits to other wineries nearby. Km 4, Camino Apalta, Colchagua Valley, Santa Cruz. Tel. (56) 72-953-360.

Tags: Atacama desert, Chile, hotels

About Andrew Harper

Free of advertising since its inception in June 1979, *Hideaway Report* is a private monthly publication for sophisticated travelers. The selection of hotels, resorts and restaurants for inclusion in this publication is made on a completely independent basis, with Andrew Harper, LLC paying full rate for all meals, lodging and related travel expenses. Andrew Harper and his editors travel incognito to write candid and unbiased travel reviews for a membership service, which provides personalized travel-planning assistance, bespoke tours and valuable travel privileges to its members.

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BY GORDY MEGROZ

Sea Kayaking

Lake Superior, Ontario

You Have: Paddled long distances through mellow water.

You Want: To lead a burly multi-day trip.

The Trip: The North Shore of Lake Superior, in Ontario, is chock-full of mossy forests, Ojibwe Indian ruins, and empty sandy beaches. It's also plenty rugged. Before tackling it, make sure you can self-rescue (climb back in your boat and bail it out). Then try this 25-mile island-hopping excursion from Gargantua Harbor to Old Woman Bay recommended by David Wells, kayak guide and owner of Wawa, Ontario-based Naturally Superior Adventures. Arrange a shuttle with Twilight Resort (US\$120; 705-882-2183) in Montreal River Harbor; they'll pick you up and drop you at Gargantua Harbor. From there, paddle past Agawa Rock and make for Grindstone Point, an area where erosion has formed smooth rock pools along the shore—perfect for lounging. Along the way, you can pick from beach campsites on several islands. On your last day, hit Still Creek Falls, where a 300-yard hike accesses a series of cascades. Then jump back in your boat and paddle past the soaring 400-foot cliffs of Old Woman Bay, the site of your take-out.

Essential Gear: Superior is rocky and cold, so go with a plastic sea kayak in the 15-to-17-foot range, a Farmer John wetsuit like NRS's Ultra (\$105; nrsweb.com), and neoprene booties like L.L.Bean's Vortex (\$39; lbean.com). The Canadian coast guard mandates that each boat have a signal device (whistle or flare) and 50 feet of floating rope and a bailer. You can rent everything but the booties from Naturally Superior (from \$80 per day; naturallysuperior.com).

Hidden
Lake
Superior



BASIC TRAINING

One of many secret spots along Costa Rica's Nicoya Peninsula

Surfing

Mal Pais, Costa Rica

You Can: Paddle out consistently, catch waves, and occasionally pop up.

You Want: To surf bigger waves—and do it while staying in a sweet beach pad.

The Trip: Mal Pais isn't a secret; this tiny surf village on the Nicoya Peninsula, accessible via puddle-jumper from San José, has a sushi restaurant on the beach. But convenience has advantages—once you arrive, you never have to take off your boardshorts. Set up shop at Florblanca's Surf House, a beachside villa with an outdoor shower. (from \$350; accommodates up to six people; florblanca.com). Then head for the water. Start with a lesson from Blue Surf Sanctuary (\$55 for two hours; bluesurf-sanctuary.com) at La Lora, a break with consistent six-foot waves. If after a few days you're confidently reading the direction of the surf and feel good about striking out on your own, try Suck Rock, a reef break with bigger rollers. Fresh fish and cold beers come courtesy of Roca Mar, right on the beach.

Essential Gear: Kina Surf Shop offers a full fleet of fiberglass rental boards, from South Point to NSP (from \$8 per day; kinasurf-costarica.com). You'll also need a good pair of boardshorts and a long-sleeve rash guard, like Quiksilver's Plain (\$33; quiksilver.com).

Mountaineering

Mount Shasta, California

You Have: Climbed a fourteenner.

You Want: To get into technical mountaineering.

The Trip: At 14,179 feet, Mount Shasta is far less dangerous than other big American peaks like Rainier, but, being covered in glaciers, it's still plenty technical. Many hikers walk up the Avalanche Gulch route. You'll scale the more challenging north face on a guided three-day mountaineering trip with Shasta Mountain Guides (\$600; shastaguides.com), during which you'll learn to self-arrest with an ice ax, walk in crampons, and recognize crevasses. It starts with a three-mile hike from the trailhead to your base camp, a large glacial moraine at 9,400 feet. The next day you're up at 3 A.M., ascending 4,600 feet of 5- to 40-degree faces with ropes and crampons. Once you pass the Ramp, a 35-degree climb, you'll see two 50-foot rock towers that let you know you're close to the summit. After carefully crossing the slick, icy Bolam chute, scramble to the top for your hero photos, then hike back down to base camp. Be sure to hit Stewart Mineral Springs for a soak in one of the giant natural steam baths on the drive out (\$28; stewartmineralsprings.com).

Essential Gear: You'll need a backpack

Mount Shasta



with about 2,400 cubic inches, like Osprey's Variant 37 (\$169; ospreypacks.com). Also get a lightweight helmet like Petzl's Meteor III (\$100; petzl.com), an ice ax like Black Diamond's Raven Pro (\$100; blackdiamond-equipment.com), lightweight strap-on crampons (Black Diamond's Contacts are great; \$140), and boots like La Sportiva's Nepal (\$475; sportive.com). Rentals are available from the Fifth Season Outdoor Store in Mount Shasta (thefifthseason.com).

Adventure Travel

Southern Chile and Argentina

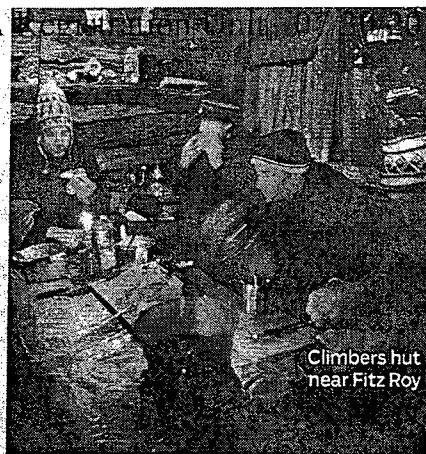
You Have: Two weeks off and enough money for a plane ticket to South America.

You Want: To kayak huge fjords, hike through icefields, and catch fat trout.

The Trip: For a DIY road trip in a foreign country, you can't do much better than Chilean and Argentinean Patagonia. The crime is low, the food is great, and you can ramble between fjords, mountains, and trout-filled rivers. The roads can be crappy, though, so you do need a 4x4. Fly into Chile's Punta Arenas (there are direct flights from Santiago) and pick up your rental. From there, drive six hours to the iconic Torres del Paine National Park and trek the French Valley. Stay at Cerro Guido (from \$200; cerroguido.cl), a working ranch that serves a mean roast lamb. Now start heading northeast. Next stop: El Calafate, Argentina, four hours away, where you'll crash at the Hotel El Quijote (doubles, \$104;

011-54-2902-491017) and fall asleep to the sound of cracking glaciers. Then it's on to El Chalten, near 11,020-foot Fitz Roy. After hiking the surrounding icefields, head back into Chile on Route 40. Fill the tank first—it's a 12.5-hour drive through empty desert, after which you'll be ready to crash at the Hacienda Tres Lagos lodge (doubles from \$150; haciendatreslagos.com) near Chile Chico. Have the lodge's fly-fishing guides take you hunting for fat brown trout on the Rio Baker (from \$290 per person per day). Prefer to go it alone? Make for the emerald waters near Colihaique and hit the Rio Simpson for hot mayfly action. You can fly out of the nearby Balmaceda airport or (recommended) extend the trip with a 250-mile jaunt north on the famed Carretera Austral highway to fjord-punctuated Pumalin Park. Rent a sea kayak from Alsar Expeditions, located in the park (from \$50 per day; alsarexpeditions.com), then head to Quintupeo Fjord, floating under waterfalls and past towering granite walls.

Essential Gear: This one's simple—a passport, good travel insurance like Travel Guard



Climbers hut
near Fitz Roy

(a \$500 policy will protect you in the event of everything from health issues to car breakdowns; travelguard.com), a six-weight fly rod with a variety of dry flies and woolly buggers, and a good vehicle. The most popular models here are the Toyota Hilux and Chevrolet Tundra. Both start at \$1,000 for a two-week rental from Punta Arenas.

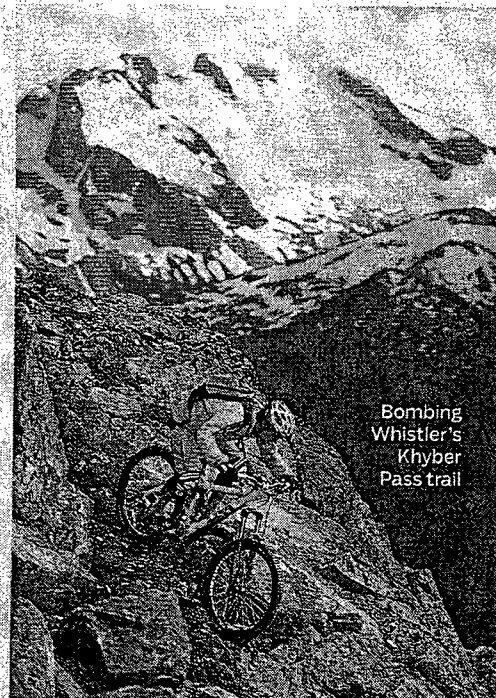
Mountain Biking

Whistler, British Columbia

You Can: Confidently, if conservatively, ride moderately difficult terrain.

You Want: To corner faster, clear larger obstacles, and bomb down technical trails.

The Trip: Book a few lessons at Whistler Bike Park, which features thousands of



Bombing
Whistler's
Khyber
Pass trail

man-made and natural obstacles—berms, rollers, cliffs, rock slabs, and even a foam pit to jump into (from US\$217 per day with bike rental and lift ticket; whistlerbike.com). Your coach will help you master the terrain and make quick downhill turns on switchbacks without putting your foot down, and will offer tips like how to prevent crashing while taking a banked turn (lead with your chin). Then head out on the hundreds of miles of trails that surround the ski resort. By night, soak in the Pan Pacific's pool and hot tub (doubles from US\$199; panpacific.com), both of which overlook the bike park.

Essential Gear: On top of a good all-around ride like the Santa Cruz Blur LT (US\$1,850; santacruzmtb.com), you'll need a full-face helmet, biking gloves, goggles, and total body armor. You could buy all these accessories from a quality manufacturer like POC for around US\$1,000, or you can just rent everything you need from the park for US\$45 a day. The Whistler Bike Shop also rents Giants, Treks, and Konas, from entry level to the same downhill bikes the pros use (US\$99 per day; whistlerbike.com).

Rafting

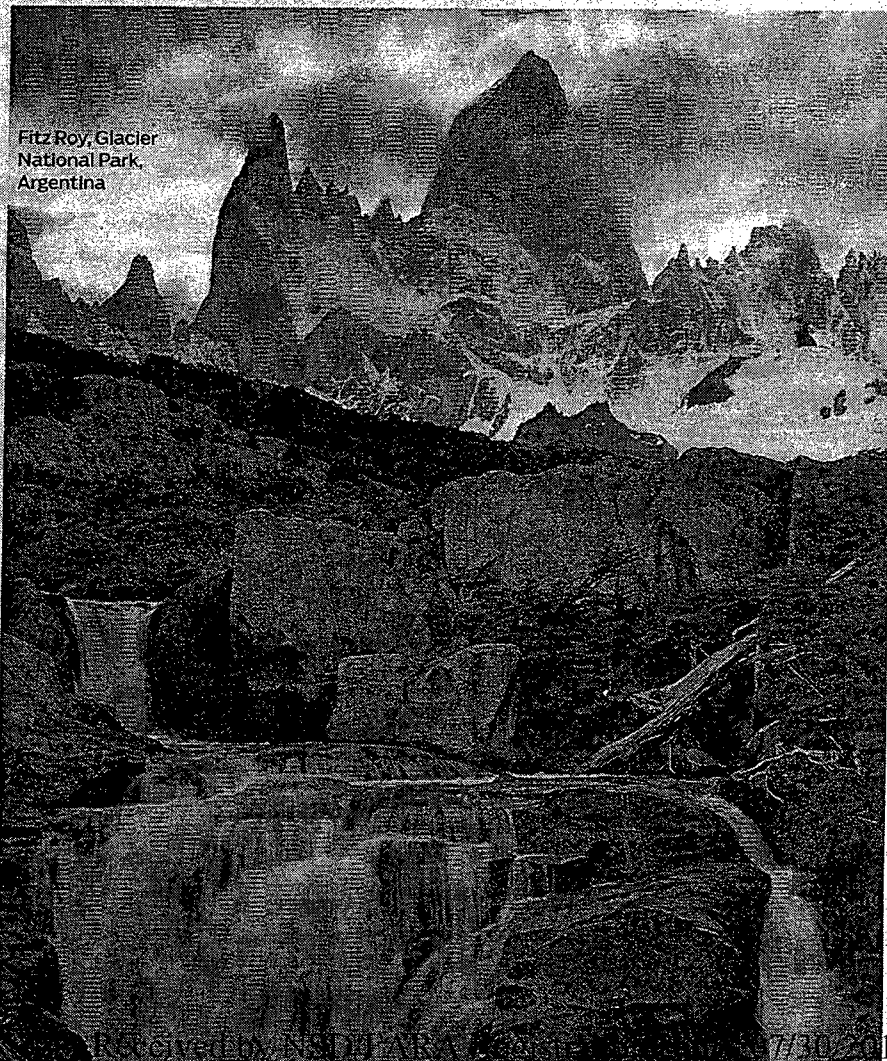
Green River, Colorado and Utah

You Have: Rowed your buddy's raft on mellow rapids.

You Want: To lead your first float trip.

The Trip: To guide a multi-day Class III trip, you have to know how to read and navigate moderate whitewater, avoid obstacles like

Fitz Roy, Glacier
National Park,
Argentina



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The next eight-day tsunami relief trip begins March 4. Starting at \$1,200, excluding airfare.

Brianna Scott recalls watching real-time images of Japan's devastating March 2011 tsunami from the safety of her dorm room at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. "I was up late, and I noticed a friend posted something about the earthquake on Facebook. I Googled it and watched as the water obliterated communities. I just started crying," says the 21-year-old.

An anime fanatic since the sixth grade, Brianna was deeply fascinated with Japanese culture. When one of her professors told her about an eight-day tsunami relief trip to Japan offered through the travel agency Kintetsu International, she immediately signed on, despite the meltdown at the Fukushima nuclear power plant. "My parents worried about me being affected by radiation," she says. "But I was determined to go."

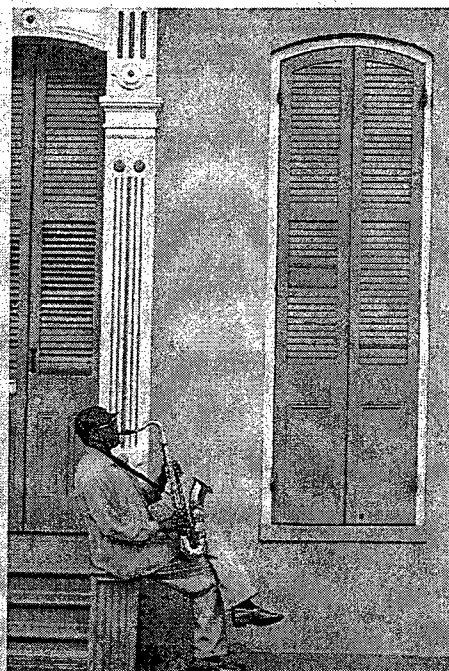
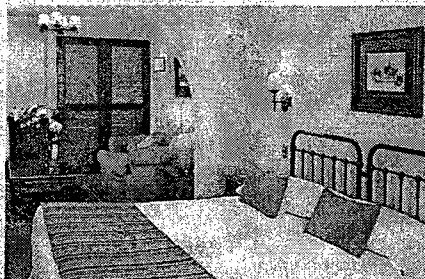
The trip was Brianna's first experience outside the United States. "I wasn't prepared for the immensity of the damage," she says. "Houses were still under water. I was afraid I might find a body." The volunteers worked for three days—one in the city of Rikuzentakata, about 300 miles northeast of Tokyo, and two in the town of Otsuchi, another 20 miles up the coast. Brianna helped clean up a family's property so that a foundation could be laid for a new home. Two days were spent removing debris from a river. "I found a photo album in the river. The faces in the photos were smudged, but it brought back the reality of the situation. I gave it to our supervisor, hoping that someone would come looking for it."

Her hard work was balanced by free days to explore Tokyo and Morioka, a city about three-and-a-half hours north of the capital by

train. An anonymous donor funded volunteers on the trip, so Brianna's only expenses were her meals. "I tried to eat as much Japanese food as possible," she says. "I couldn't get enough of the ramen." Brianna's anime obsession plus a year of Japanese language studies made it fairly easy for her to communicate. In Morioka, she found herself singing karaoke with her fellow patrons. "I had my first real bar experience. Instead of peanuts they serve edamame. I made the mistake of eating the skin of the bean, and the locals laughed at me."

Now home, Brianna gets updates from her Japanese friends via Skype. "The Japanese have food, water, and shelter," she says. "What they need are extra hands to help with the next steps of the recovery process. This trip taught me that instead of throwing money at a problem, more people should travel and help." ▲

Chile



New Orleans



Cambodia

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More Volunteer Vacations

CAMBODIA

Hôtel de la Paix

Last fall many villages in Siem Reap suffered damage from severe floods. Hôtel de la Paix, a boutique property in the city, supports community projects such as the Life and Hope Association (LHA), a nonprofit run by the monks of Wat Damnak, and the Green Gecko Project, an organization that educates and feeds children. A three-night package includes a Khmer meal, a temple tour, and a visit to one of the projects. Guests with more time can arrange to work at LHA's Children's Development Village, which is now home to kids orphaned by the floods. Three-night community packages from \$1,190. 85/(5) 63-966-000. hoteldelapaixangkor.com

CHILE

Liz Caskey Culinary and Wine Experiences

The 8.8-magnitude earthquake that hit Chile in February 2010 greatly affected Maule, one of the country's wine regions. Liz Caskey runs food and wine tours in Chile that include stays at wineries. She recently introduced the pre- or post-trip option of helping to build new wings for an overcrowded shelter in Molina, a village in Maule where many people lost homes. When they're not volunteering, guests visit wineries such as Casa Lapostolle, participate in tastings with winemakers, and sample local food products. Custom food and wine trips start at \$550 per day. (904) 687-0340. lizcaskey.com

HAITI

Elevate Destinations

Almost 70 percent of the French colonial buildings in the port town of Jacamel were damaged by the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Elevate Destinations, a philanthropic travel company, leads eight- and 15-day trips that include opportunities to work on construction, reforestation, and other projects. "We're very focused on ensuring that our volunteers work directly with Haitians," says Elevate's Urgent Service Director, Andrea Atkinson. Excursions to the Bassin-Blue waterfalls and a village outside of Port-au-Prince known for its artisanal metalwork are also included. The next trip is in July 2012. Starting at \$1,200. (617) 661-0203. elevatedestinations.com

LOUISIANA

The St. Bernard Project

Six years after Hurricane Katrina, nearly 200 families in New Orleans are still living in FEMA trailers. The St. Bernard Parish, located about 10 miles from downtown, was one of the communities most severely affected. The St. Bernard Project, a nonprofit dedicated to rebuilding homes in the area, relies on up to 250 volunteers daily. In one day, volunteers might install a floor or paint the walls of a small house. Skilled volunteers may assist with plumbing and electrical projects. The time commitment can be as little as a half day or as long as a month. Volunteers are responsible for their own lodging but receive discounts at partner hotels. (504) 277-6831. stbernardproject.org

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Skiing in the Summer

CHILE

AN OLD-WORLD RESORT WHERE YOU CAN BEAT THE CROWDS, AND THE HEAT.

by KENDALL HAMILTON

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB HOWARD

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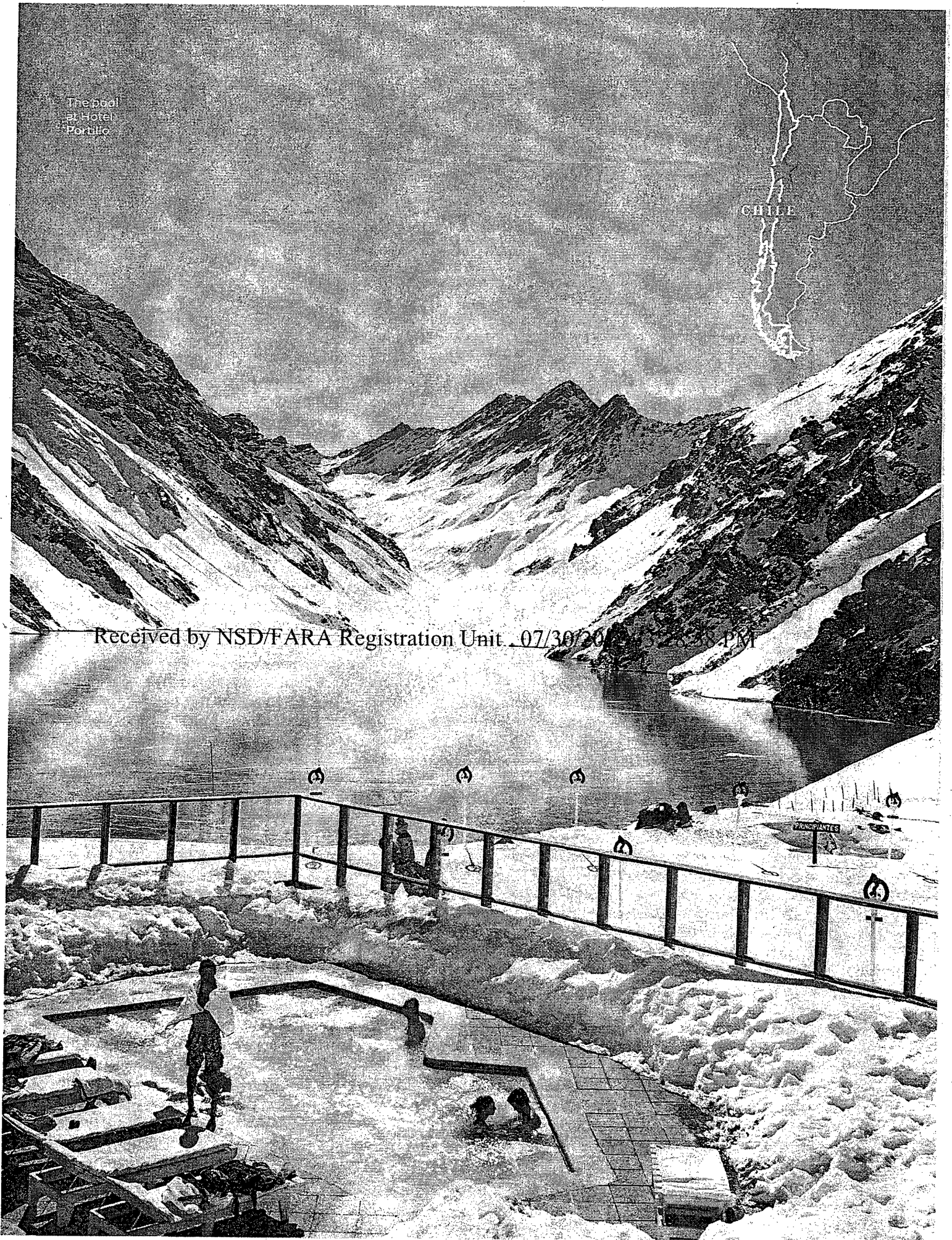
SUMMER SKI TRIP is more than a novelty. It's a self-indulgent subversion of the natural order. It's dessert before dinner, a Bloody Mary at breakfast, a weekend on Wednesday. It feels impossible, yet there it is. It's something every skier should try at least once.

Europe's Alpine glaciers offer year-round skiing, though that's mostly a lark—a few sunny turns in the morning high above Zermatt, maybe a run or two in shorts so your spouse

The pool
at Hotel
Portillo

CHILE

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DREAM TRIPS 2012

The view of the Andes
(and a corner of the
LEGO-colored hotel)



Enjoying an
après ski



can take a funny picture, then back down to the usual sightseeing. No, Europe won't do. For the full experience, you need to head to South America. And for one of the ski world's few truly unique experiences, you need to visit the **Ski Portillo** resort in Los Andes, Chile.

Los Andes is deep in the southern hemisphere, roughly in line with Cape Town and Sydney, so winter runs from June through September. There's something undeniably decadent about plumbing the depths of fresh powder while folks back home sweat through another dog day afternoon. But the Portillo resort bends time in other ways, too. With its surreally scenic—and, at more than 9,000 feet, notably lofty—perch amid the jagged Andes Mountains, it feels like the sort of place where you might stumble across a lost civilization. And, in many respects, that's exactly what Portillo is.

THE OUTRAGEOUS LEGO-yellow Hotel Portillo serves as the resort's main lodging and self-contained center of gravity. It's a delightful throwback, an uncontrived retro relic, where, if you squint, you can make out the specter of a jet-set past—just beyond that framed print of dogs playing poker. From the formal dining room, where uniformed waiters serve guests three meals daily (plus high tea in the afternoon) at assigned tables, to the dark wood, soaring ceilings, and stocking-foot ethos of the common areas, there's an appealing aura of lived-in luxury here. In a ski world dominated by endless stone-and-timber lodges, uniformed drones dispensing



GETTING THERE
Budget at least \$700 for the round-trip, eight-and-a-half hour flight between Miami and Santiago, Chile. From there, shuttles for the two-hour drive to Portillo run \$120 round trip (800/829-5325).



WHEN TO GO
The best ski conditions are in July and August.



WHAT TO PACK
Other than cold-weather gear, smart-casual wear will suffice for evening. If you don't BYO, ski rentals run about \$240 per week.

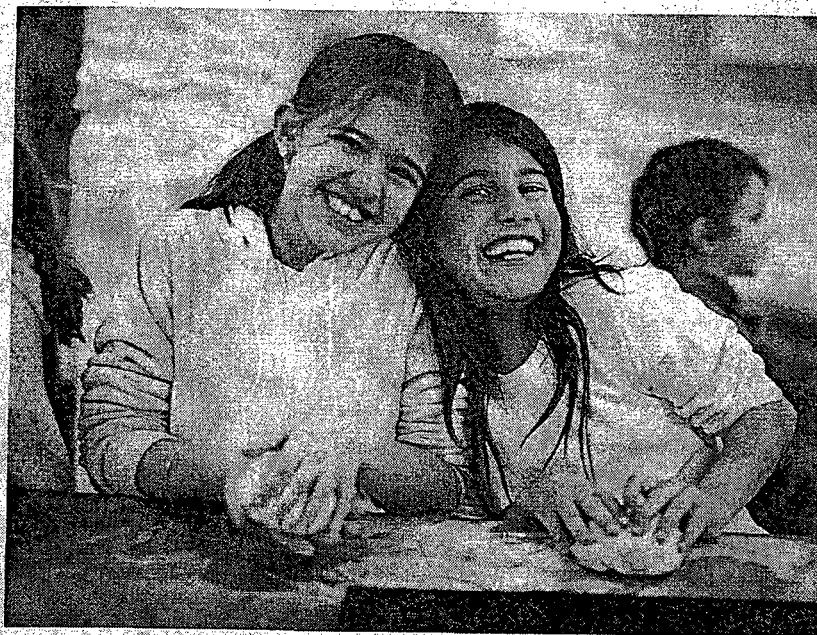


BOTTOM LINE
Seven-night packages at the Octagon Lodge, including lodging, all meals, and skiing, run \$1,100 per person (skiportillo.com).

training-manual hospitality, and interchangeable wood-fired pizzerias and mochaccino latterias, Portillo stands out for its absence of artifice. The service is abundant and genuinely friendly. The dining is fine without being fussy—Chilean wines and fresh local seafood figure prominently. And the experience is singular.

Portillo operates predominantly on the old-style ski-week model: Saturday to Saturday stays with meals and lift tickets included, yet another welcome anachronism in an age of à la carte, rush-in, rush-out recreation. Not only do package deals make Portillo surprisingly affordable, especially within the costly context of ski travel, but the week-long stays also encourage friendships and foster a sense of shared experience among guests who see one another day after day, night after night, and, in many cases, year after year. North Americans, South Americans, Europeans; skiers and boarders young and old; nascent and world famous—everyone mixes over Pisco Sours (Chile's signature cocktail, which tastes a little like baby aspirin) and après-ski sushi in the hotel's bar or amid the late-night throb of the in-house disco (not club-disco). At its best, a week in Portillo can feel like a colossal slope-side house party. Grown-ups gab and kids run free (or partake in any number of organized activities—bread-baking class is a perennial favorite).

It's probably not surprising that none of the sleek and simply appointed guest rooms contains a television—yet another nod to a more genteel past—though a communal TV room and high-speed Internet access cater to those who



can't quite cut the cord. Accommodations range from twin rooms to suites to practical family apartments consisting of adjoining rooms, one equipped with a double set of bunks. Adjacent to the hotel, the resort operates two smaller, less elaborate lodges: the Octagon, which offers four-person rooms outfitted with two sets of bunk beds; and the spartan Inca Lodge, a hostel-style setup aimed at younger travelers. Octagon guests take their meals in the grand dining room at the main hotel, while those at the Inca have access to a cafeteria. Beyond that, all of Portillo's offerings are open to everyone staying at the resort.

Of course, Portillo's overriding amenity is its skiing. The first folks to ski in the area were 19th-century railroad engineers, who found it easier to slide than ride as they worked to establish a link between Chile and Argentina. Today, the resort, purchased from the Chilean government by American investors in 1961 and still American-owned and -run, offers skiing suitable to all abilities on 35 trails from 12 lifts, as well as innumerable acres of off-piste terrain. Portillo's altitude results in wide-open, treeless ground blanketed by reliable annual snowfall.

If you see a lift line in Portillo, take a picture. Otherwise, nobody will believe you. The slopes are largely the domain of the resort's 450 guests, supplemented by a smattering of local day skiers

and perhaps a few Chilean army mountain troops engaged in "training" that looks suspiciously like R&R. You may also encounter—on the slopes or horsing around on the sundeck—members of the various national ski teams who actually do train at Portillo, or perhaps a ski-film star preparing to jump cliffs for the cameras. You probably shouldn't attempt that yourself, though experts interested in exploring beyond the resort's defined boundaries may hire an experienced guide, and anyone looking to brush up on technique will find a top-notch multilingual ski school.

PORTILLO'S underpopulated slopes have a lot to do with the resort's uncommonly relaxed atmosphere, which may require an adjustment for many American skiers, who are notorious for their harried and often competitive pursuit of maximum mountain plunder. Why rush in the morning? Why not take a break to bask in the sun? Why not spend an hour (or three) watching condors circle as you enjoy a lunch of grilled meats and chilled wine at on-mountain eatery Tio Bob's? Take a dip in the outdoor pool, soak in one of the pond-size hot tubs, grab a nap, get a massage, read a book. The snow isn't going anywhere, you're not going anywhere—and Portillo isn't changing anytime soon. ■


From left: pizza class gives kids a break from the slopes, and the grown-ups, a cozy moment by one of Portillo's many fireplaces

AT ITS BEST, A WEEK IN PORTILLO CAN FEEL LIKE A COLOSSAL SLOPE-SIDE HOUSE PARTY.

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DEPARTURES

MARCH/APRIL 2012

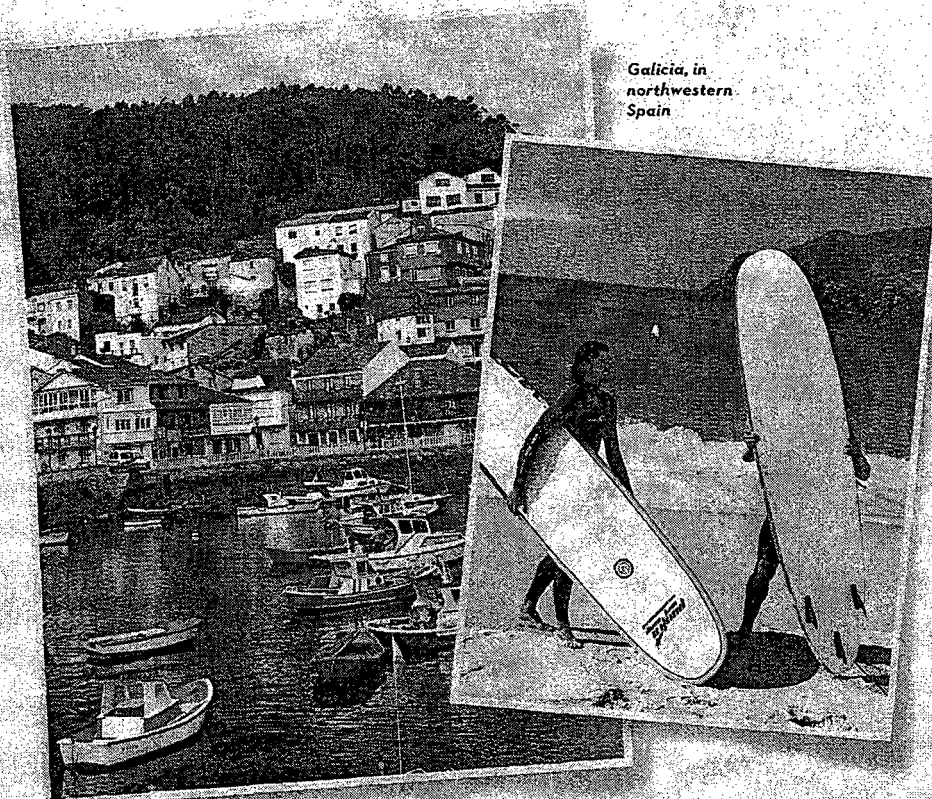


*Donna Karan in Haiti
10 Perfect Boutiques in Paris
On the Beach in Vietnam*

international
—STYLE—

*High Design in Tel Aviv
Where Men Shop in New York
India Done Right*

PLUS A Fashion Portfolio
By Amanda Ross & Alistair Taylor-Young



Galicia, in
northwestern
Spain

A Sense of Place...and Belonging

I read "Welcome to Galicia" in the January/February issue with great interest, since I recently reconnected with my family roots in that mystical region of Spain. I grew up in Miami as a Cuban exile, the son of an exile and the grandson of an exile—a rootless identity of sorts, no matter how one embraces his or her adopted country. Before my father passed away in 2010, we were arranging a trip to Galicia to visit my grandfather's remaining family. After his death, I went and found not just my relatives and our ancestral history but also all the features of the hidden jewel your cover story so richly explored, from the Costa de la Muerte sites to the iconic delicacies, especially the small green peppers fried in olive oil, pimientos de Padrón. A tip for those planning to visit: Don't miss the swinging botafumeiro (giant incense burners) in the cathedral during mass.

ANTONIO FINS
Miami, FL

Chile Uncorked

In December my husband and I booked a last-minute honeymoon. After reading your piece on Chilean wine country [November/December 2011], I contacted Sandra Oyarzún, whose itinerary included the Colchagua Valley, the Atacama Desert and Patagonia. The properties you featured exceeded our (very high) expectations, especially Viña Vik. But the spanking-new Tierra Patagonia—we're worried nothing else can top it. It was only open for ten days before it was forced to evacuate guests and staff due to the Torres del Paine fire across Lake Sarmiento. We arrived on the first day it reopened. Despite the circumstances, the staff developed alternative excursions that had never been touched by tourists, and the service was seamless. We couldn't have asked for a better experience or a better guide in DEPARTURES.

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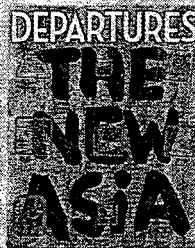
Notes on Asia

I enjoyed John Powers's "Devouring Singapore" [October 2011], but in keeping with his observation that the city's main pastime is the debate over food, I'd like to bring up a few points of contention about his selections. As an expat for three years, I feel some of his suggestions are dated. Min Jiang's once-renowned Peking duck has fallen off some Singaporeans' must-try list. Newton Food Centre is now a veritable tourist trap, and in my opinion, the kaya toast at Ya Kun Toast is superior to that at ToastBox. I realize in a dynamic place like Singapore, it's hard to keep up with all the changes. But perhaps Mr. Powers's time in L.A. left him a bit behind the local foodscene that makes this the center of the gastronomical universe.

AMOS EZRA KATZ
Singapore

The New Asia issue was incredibly well researched and filled with useful recommendations not found in ordinary travel guides. It reminded me of the fragrances in the temples of rural Cambodia, the bustle of the hawkers centers in Singapore and the allure of cultures so different from our own. A copy will travel alongside my passport on my visit to the region next month.

ROBERT BOLASH
New York, NY



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March 1, 2012 7:00 PM

A Personal Landscape in Patagonia

By DAVID GONZALEZ and DAVID FURST

A family traveled through the Estancia Valls Chacabuco, an area in Chile's Patagonia region owned by Douglas Tompkins, an American millionaire and environmentalist. Feb. 1, 2008.

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Thick clouds hang low over the rugged landscape, where freshly-slaughtered pigs and lambs can be found just as easily as leather-faced men on horseback. Shadowy figures emerge from mist-covered paths, lending an air of mystery to Jorge Uzon's images of remote towns in Chile's Patagonia region. Rendered in black and white, his photographs feel quiet and intimate.

"It wasn't complicated for me," Mr. Uzon said. "It was always about the people. I never spent days waiting for the right light by a lake. It was never my idea to shoot pretty sunsets. My idea was to shoot the people in relation to the landscape."

In recent years, that relationship has gotten a lot more complicated. Patagonia — hundreds of miles south of the urban bustle of Chile's capital, Santiago — is the controversial site for five proposed dams. The project, which has prompted **court fights** and **street protests**, has been portrayed by supporters as necessary for the country's energy future, while opponents denounce it as a move that would disrupt both the landscape and local traditions.

The region has personal meaning to Mr. Uzon, who previously worked for *Agence France-Presse* in Guatemala and Mexico. His mother was from a similar area, and he grew up taking regular trips to Chile's south, where his grandmother still lived. Befriending such familiar connections, his project started with a suggestion from his wife, an anthropologist, that he should document the area threatened by the proposed hydroelectric plants.

He took it one step further, deciding he would bring his entire family along for the project. The presence of his wife and children, he said, gave him a different rhythm and access over the course of the four trips he has made since 2008.



Juan Uzon and his father fishing in the Puerto Lake. Oct. 27, 2011

"You can't take all the pictures you want, like you could if you were alone," he said. "But people respond more to you, and it gives you a closeness. You go to people's homes, and my children play with their children, and another sort of intimacy is created. There is a different closeness when you don't have to talk about family. They can see it."

That intimacy is in contrast to how the region and its people might be seen – or not – by the rest of the country.

"Chile is very centralized, and everything goes through Santiago," he said.

"The regions are like folkloric stamps, where everything is beautiful and summery, and the people in the south are seen as always smiling and happy. But life is different. I wanted to demystify that."

He approached the project slowly, since he knew he would be returning. He started by photographing what was around him, exploring the area and his imagination. He found that life in the region today, in many ways, mirrored his childhood recollections of how the residents worked the land, slaughtered their own meat and relied on their own wits.

People were also more accepting of him when he came down during the winter, rather than just during the balmy days of summer.

"Once you get wet in the rain, they no longer look at you like a tourist," he joked.

Mr. Uzon has not changed his own view on the dams – he is clear about his opposition to the project. Yet he said he did not bring it up in conversations, since he did not want to be seen as an activist. Still, he said that many of the people he spoke with were almost resigned to the inevitability of the project.

"They have a monster of a project on top of them," he said. "It's almost like a type of blackmail where they're told the future of the country depends on these dams. But there is no serious debate to see if that message is true or not."

Mr. Uzon hopes to produce an exhibition, book and multimedia show about the project, though he has gone back to square one after the Chilean government recently rejected his application for a grant to fund a show.

But his enthusiasm for exploring the world of Patagonia – and his childhood – remains undimmed. Much of that comes from having had his family by his side.

"On the first trip my oldest son was 4 years old, the same age I was when I started going to the countryside," he said. "My second child, he went with us in a little van when he was 6 months old. It's a marvelous experience, one they will never forget."

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Since discovering photography, Eric S. Margolis has felt a need to stay close and from the moment. His latest project documents the rapidly gentrifying blocks of Park Slope.

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The Lonesome Ghosts of a City's Past

Eric Cohen has been taking Polaroids of New York City for 25 years. The images, he said, capture "the connection between a non-touristic city and our romanticized times."

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COCHRANE JOURNAL

In Patagonia, Caught Between Visions of the Future



Jorge Lator

The gaucho are still very much part of life in the Patagonian region of Chile, but change is approaching and residents are struggling to grasp where they fit in.

By APRIL NELSON

Published March 1, 2012

COCHRANE, Chile — At the end of a 200-mile stretch of mostly unpaved highway, nearly impassable during the long winter months and only marginally better in summer, sits the quiet community of Cochrane.

Multimedia



The Slide Show

Lenz: A Personal Landscape in Patagonia

For generations, this isolation nurtured a bucolic, if insular, existence where little changed. The grasslands around here were sliced up into cattle and sheep ranches. Folktales romanticized the gaucho lifestyle on the wide open Patagonian steppe, sharing maté around the campfire.

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But for all its remoteness, this hamlet has found itself at the heart of a heated national debate over the future — and some would say, the soul — of Patagonia itself.

A short drive outside town, a \$10 billion hydroelectric dam project, known as HidroAysén, is being planned, stirring a national outcry against what critics call the destruction of one of Chile's most pristine ecosystems. Last year, thousands of protesters opposed to the dams took to the streets of the capital, Santiago, while hundreds more clashed with the police in a haze of tear gas and water cannons within view of the presidential palace.

But just within eyeshot of the proposed project is the entrance to an entirely different view of Patagonia's destiny: the 660,000-acre Patagonia National Park, which seeks to preserve the region's grandeur by drawing tens of thousands of visitors a year.

The two competing visions of Patagonia are set so close to each other that they seem to be squaring off in a blatant ideological battle, leaving local residents struggling to grasp where they fit in.

The inauguration of the first work-training center in this remote Patagonian hamlet was a case in point, a

significant but awkward event. The building, a three-room log cabin-like structure, was created for the purpose of molding an agrarian population into a skilled labor force for dam construction.

As back-slapping company men congratulated city and school officials, the honored guests, a collection of former ranch hands and itinerant workers, among them Modesto Sepulveda, a 27-year-old converted gaucho, stood sheepishly in a corner, nibbling on

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The quiet community of Cochrane has largely been isolated for generations

The New York Times

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bite-size empanadas and dishes of ceviche.

Mr. Sepulveda, a soft-spoken husband and father of two, was awarded a certificate acknowledging his successful completion of construction site basics. On this evening, however, he was more philosophical than festive.

"Development is coming, and we had all best adapt because sooner or later we aren't going to have another option," Mr. Sepulveda said plainly.

The energy project is a partnership between the Italian-Spanish company *Endesa* and the Chilean company Colbún, which plan to harness the power of the untamed Baker and Pascua Rivers through a series of five dams that would generate 2,750 megawatts, primarily for energy-starved cities farther north.

But while protesters denounce the threat to flora and fauna, María Ester Quijanes, a Cochrane City Council member, is more concerned that the project will create a privileged class of citizens than with the environmental consequences of damming Patagonia.

"Politically, I agree with the dams because I believe in energy independence," Mrs. Quijanes said, "but I do worry they are going to create a social imbalance between those who can adjust to a different work culture and those who can't."

With a few notable exceptions, the controversy that seems to follow HidroAysén around the rest of the country is surprisingly absent from Cochrane. There is a simple explanation, according to Luigi Solís, 33, who was hired to build trails in Patagonia National Park: "They win you over with money."

HidroAysén has invested substantially in Cochrane's future, supporting infrastructure projects, training hundreds to work on the dams while promising to train hundreds more, and offering 150 technical university scholarships for high school students. The company also has a Cochrane office with an open-door policy where citizens can peruse a model of the hydroelectric dam project.

Conservación Patagónica, the foundation behind Patagonia National Park, has also channeled its energies toward infrastructure building, but it has largely overlooked public outreach. Its image among residents has suffered as a result. The community was incensed when the foundation bought and then shut down the biggest ranch in the region, contributing to what residents saw as the decimation of their traditional way of life. The purchase, made in 2004, was for a 173,000-acre tract, ideally positioned between two national reserves, allowing for a sweeping stretch of conservation land.

Multimedia



On Side Show
Lens: A Personal Landscape in Patagonia

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that will feature a museum, a restaurant and cabins made of stones from a small foundation-operated quarry, interior woodwork of recycled wood and roofs made from copper, Chile's main export.

It is an ambitious project, fashioned in the mold of Yellowstone or Yosemite National Parks. When completed, Patagonia National Park will unite the 460,000 acres of the adjacent national reserves with the 200,000 it has acquired, forming a unique range of semi-arid Patagonia steppe and temperate beech forests.

It has not helped relations that the foundation — and thus the former ranch — is under the control of an outsider, Kristine Tompkins, the former chief executive of the Patagonia clothing company. Fueling the fire, she is married to the environmentalist Douglas Tompkins, whose own efforts at conservation in Chile have stirred nationalist sentiments.

Exaggerated stories about the park run the gamut, from prejudice against locals who once managed the ranch — actually, the park has 50 employees, about the same number as during the ranching days — to criticisms that a gaucho-less countryside has allowed for a resurgence of the once maligned puma.

"Lately, we've been organizing visits to dispel the myths older residents have about us while enchanting younger residents," Mr. Solís said.

The foundation has bought more land, restored ecosystems, recovered huemul deer and puma populations, and carved out a system of trails. It is also building park headquarters

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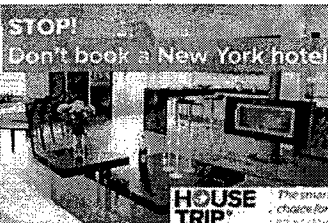
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The New York Times

"World-class parks attract people from all over the world," Mr. Tompkins said. "I've seen it over and over again. It will be a tremendous opportunity to develop a new industry in this area, if they don't build those dams."

Mr. Tompkins believes that within a few years the park could be drawing upwards of 150,000 visitors per year, similar to Torres del Paine, Chile's other famous Patagonia park. And those visitors will need hotels, equipment rental, tourism agencies and transportation.

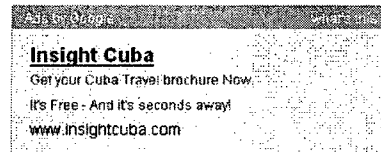
"Sure, people talk about the expansion of tourism, but nobody truly understands what it means," said Marcelina Catalán, 42, who runs Cafe Internet Mazal, the lone Internet cafe in Cochrane, with six computers and a patchy connection. "You have to prepare people if you are serious about developing a tourism industry."

Those opposed to HidroAysén and Patagonia National Park say their presence has already introduced social ills and caused divisions among residents of this tight-knit community.

"Suddenly there is a nostalgia for the past," said Rosa Gómez, 66, a retired teacher and local historian. "But people forget how tremendously isolated we were back then."

When she was a teenager, electricity and drinking water were luxuries, and the only way in or out of town was on horseback. Even if turning back the clock were possible, she said, who would?

"If I had to weigh the trust and harmony that existed between neighbors back then with all that we have now," Ms. Gomez said, pausing to consider the options, "the scale tips toward now."



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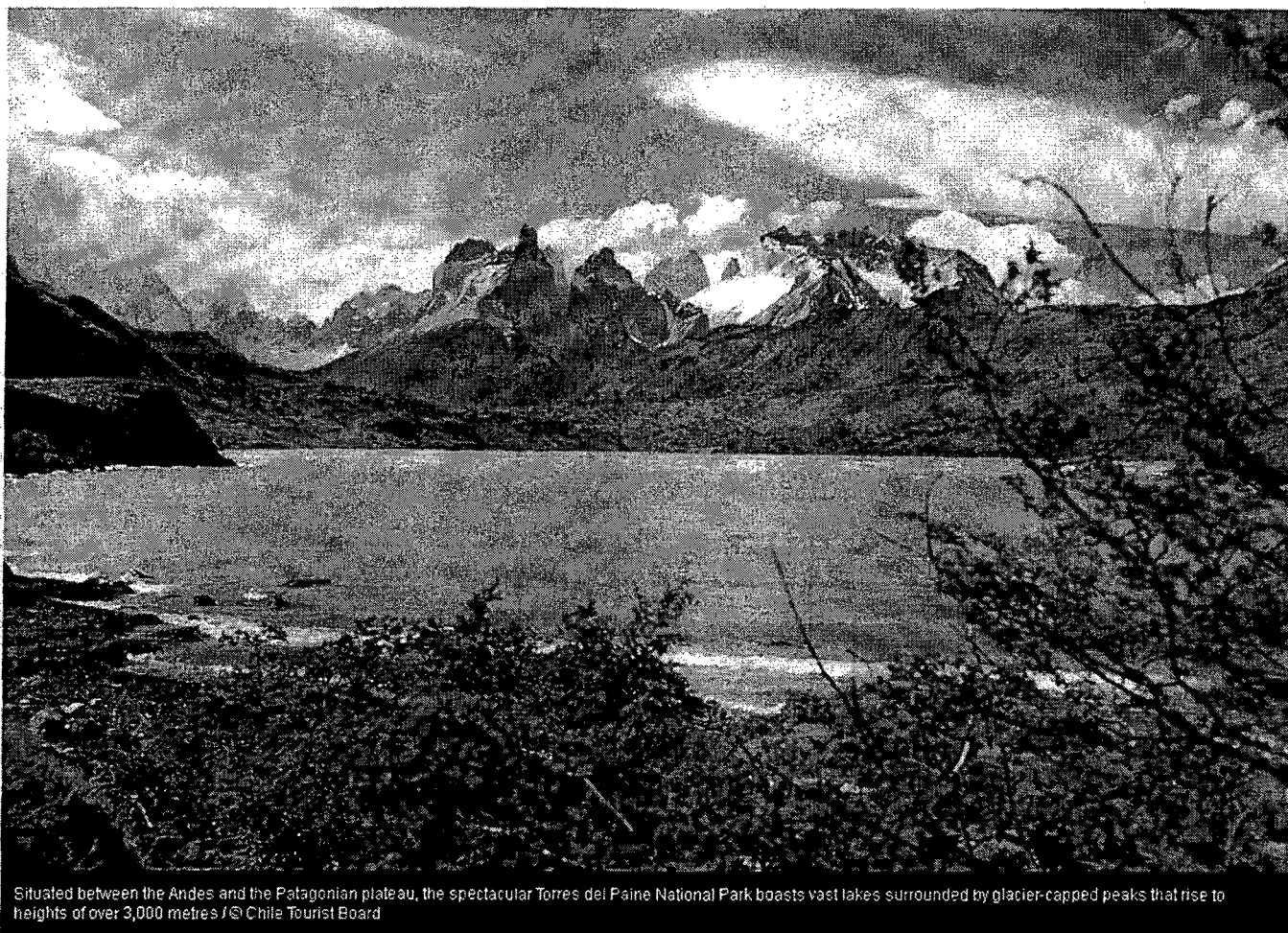


(Almost) at the end of the world

Torres del Paine, O'Higgins Park, Puerto Natales, Tierra del Fuego, Magdalena Island... Chilean Patagonia is an amazing land of spectacular changing landscapes, unreal and unspoiled. Our photo gallery will give you a hint of what's out there on the edge of the world.

For many centuries **Patagonia** was the limit of the known world. **A mythical land, distant and strange**, inhabited by giant beings of unknown and unfamiliar customs and habits. The name Patagonia comes from the word meaning 'giant' that Magellan used on his 1520 voyage of exploration to describe the natives of this **remote region of South America**. Since ancient times, the few sailors who reached this land did so believing they had reached **the gates of Terra Australis Incognita**, - the legendary southernmost continent, hypothesised as far back as Aristotle and placed at the bottom of charts by European mapmakers from the fifteenth century onwards. Today, 600 years later, Patagonia remains, to a great extent, a **wild, uncharted territory**. This vast territory, shared by Argentina and Chile, is home to a great diversity of landscapes: mountains, fjords, lakes, islands, glaciers... and there are many reasons to think it still deserves the name of **the edge of the world**.

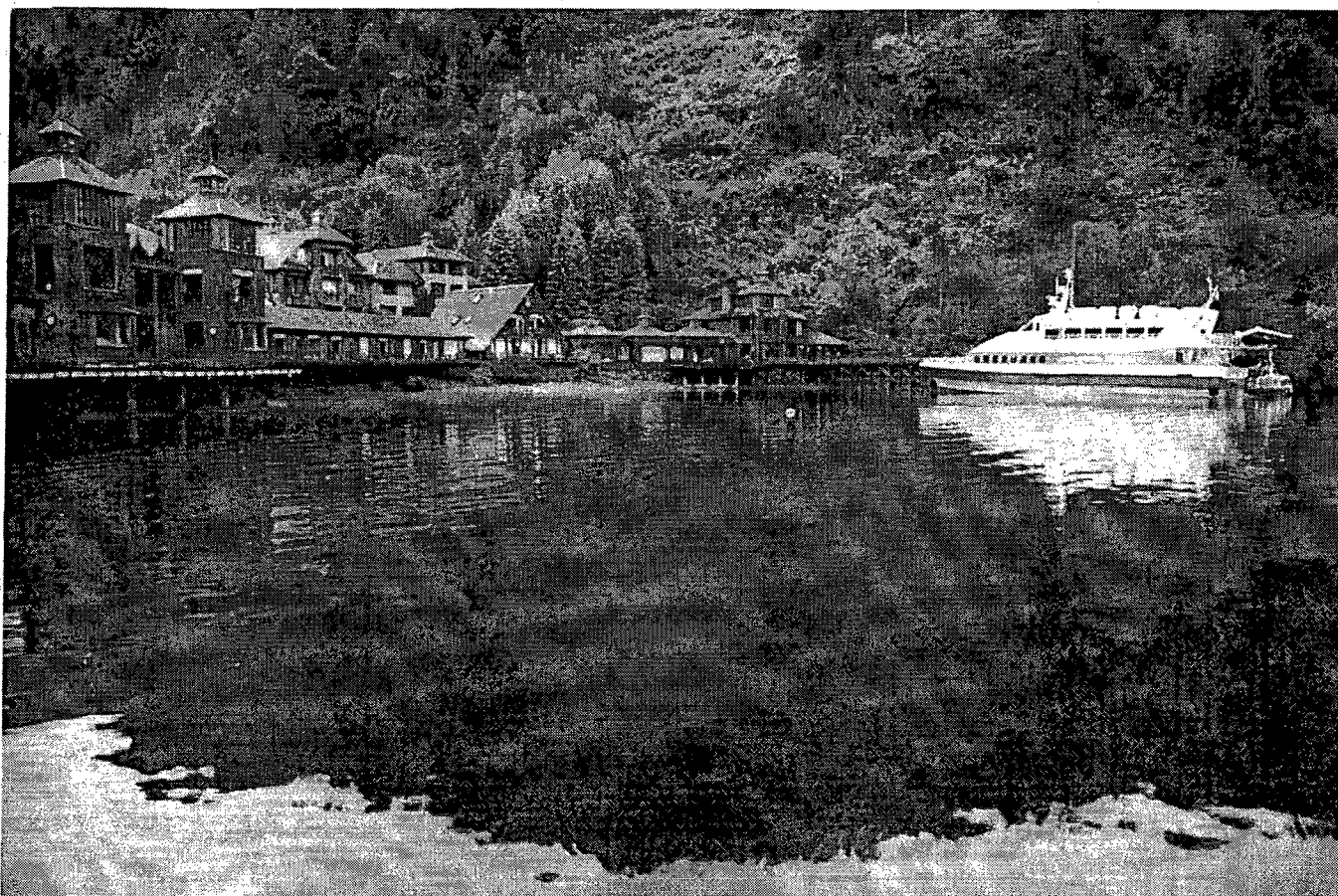
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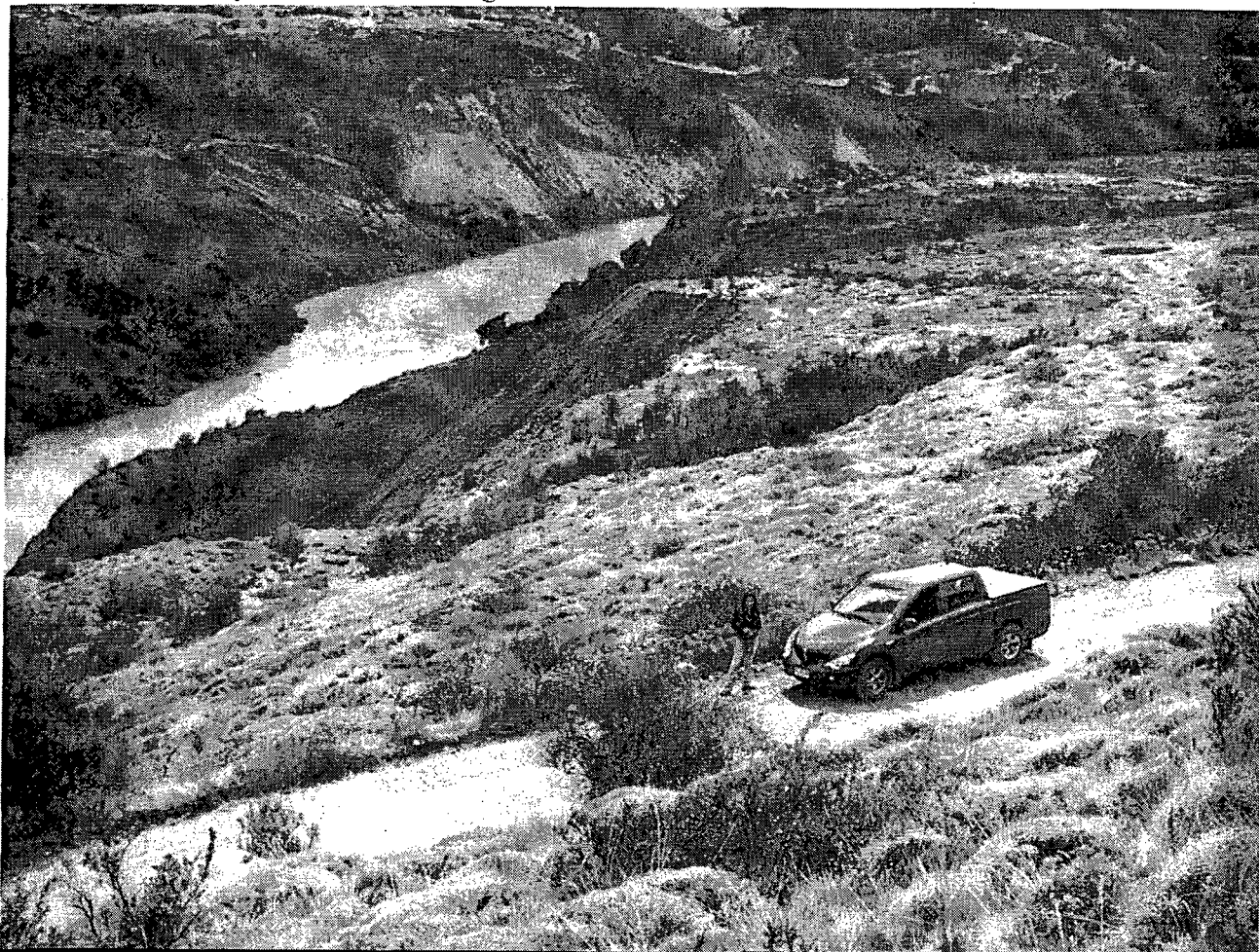
Situated between the Andes and the Patagonian plateau, the spectacular Torres del Paine National Park boasts vast lakes surrounded by glacier-capped peaks that rise to heights of over 3,000 metres / © Chile Tourist Board



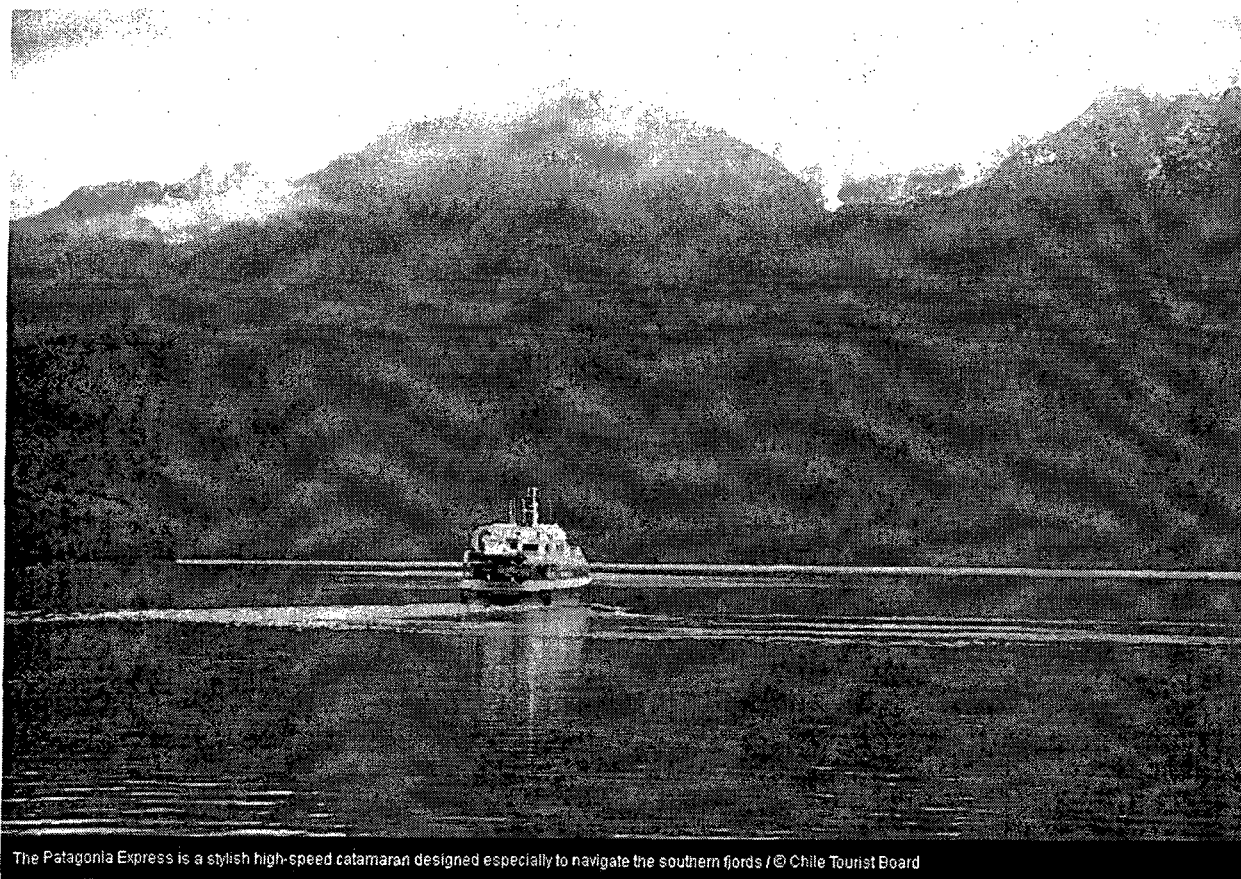
The mantle of forests in the Queulat Park is a haven for many species of wildlife, including a host of exotic birds, making it a popular destination among those who come seeking the unspoiled natural spaces at the ends of the earth / © Chile Tourist Board



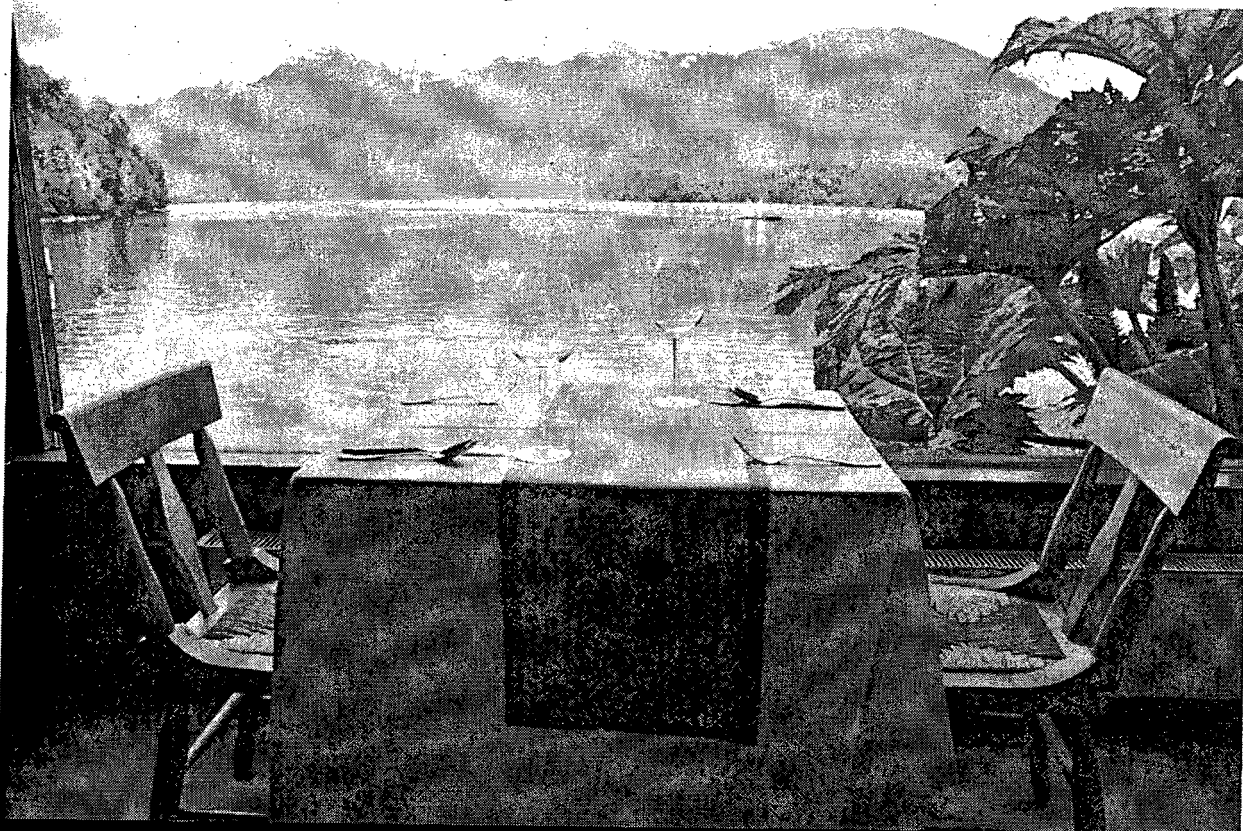
The Patagonia Express leaving the pier at Puyuhuapi en route to San Rafael Lagoon / © Chile Tourist Board



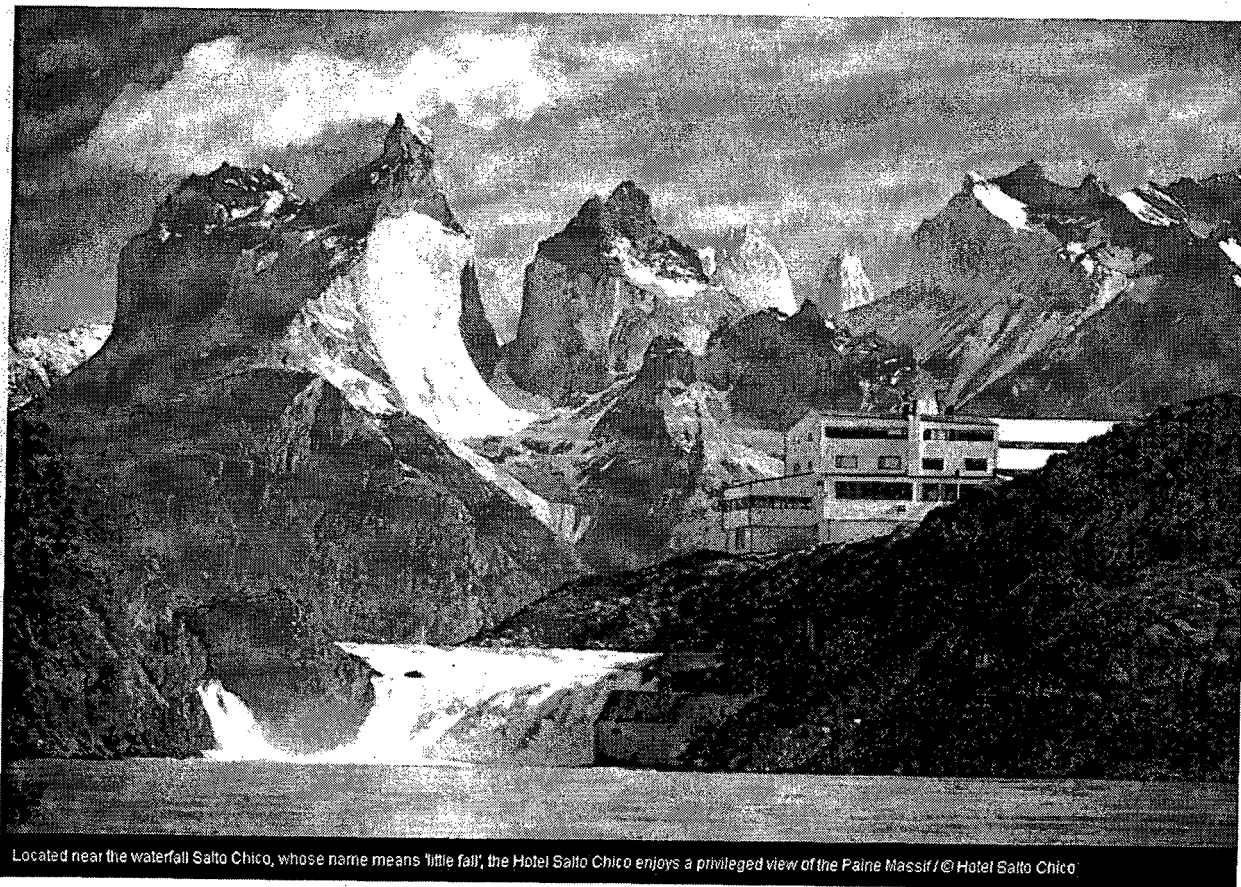
Here seen as it passes alongside the Baker River, the Carretera Austral – Chile's Southern Highway – is over 1,200 kilometres in length and runs through rural Patagonia; the ambitious infrastructure project has connected this sparsely populated area with the rest of the country after centuries of isolation / © Chile Tourist Board



The Patagonia Express is a stylish high-speed catamaran designed especially to navigate the southern fjords / © Chile Tourist Board



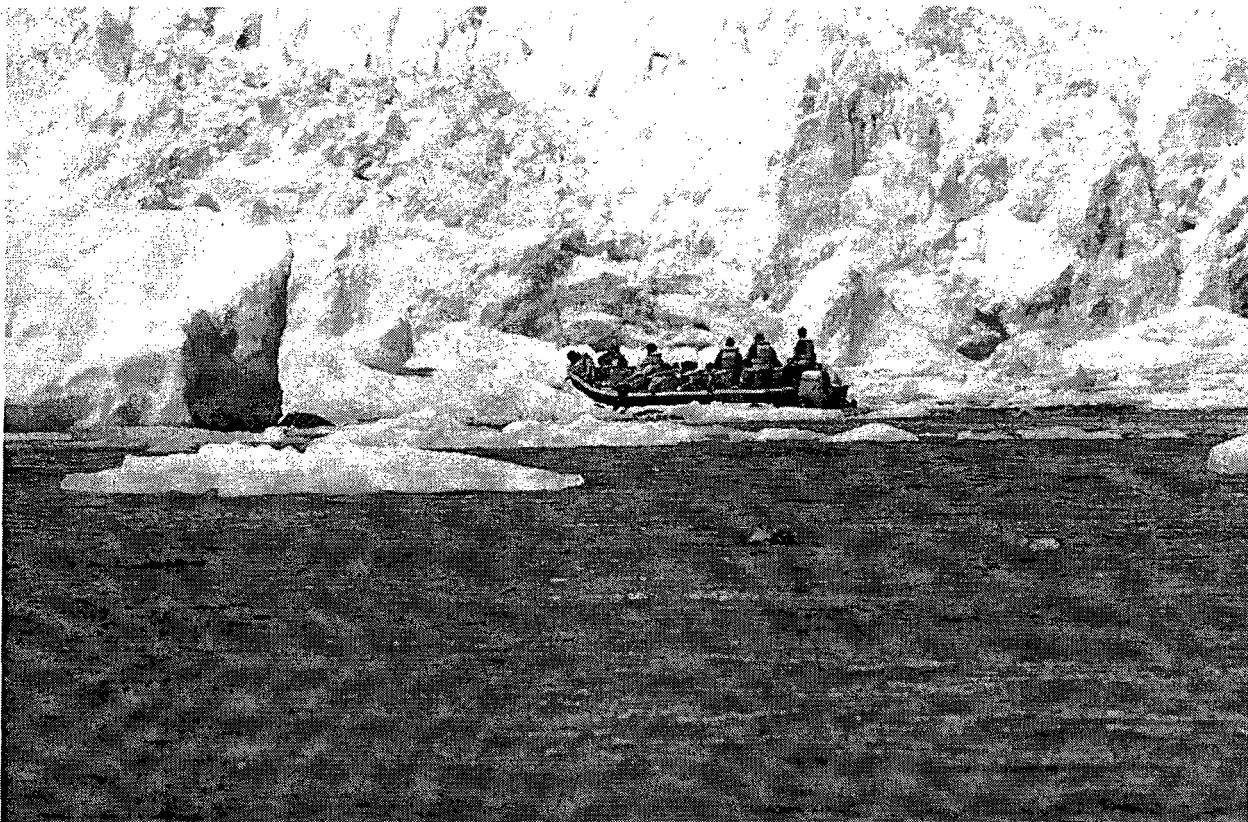
After a long drive along the Carretera Austral and a boat trip across a quiet bay, the beautiful Puyuhuapi Lodge & Spa offers a perfect spot to relax / © Chile Tourist Board



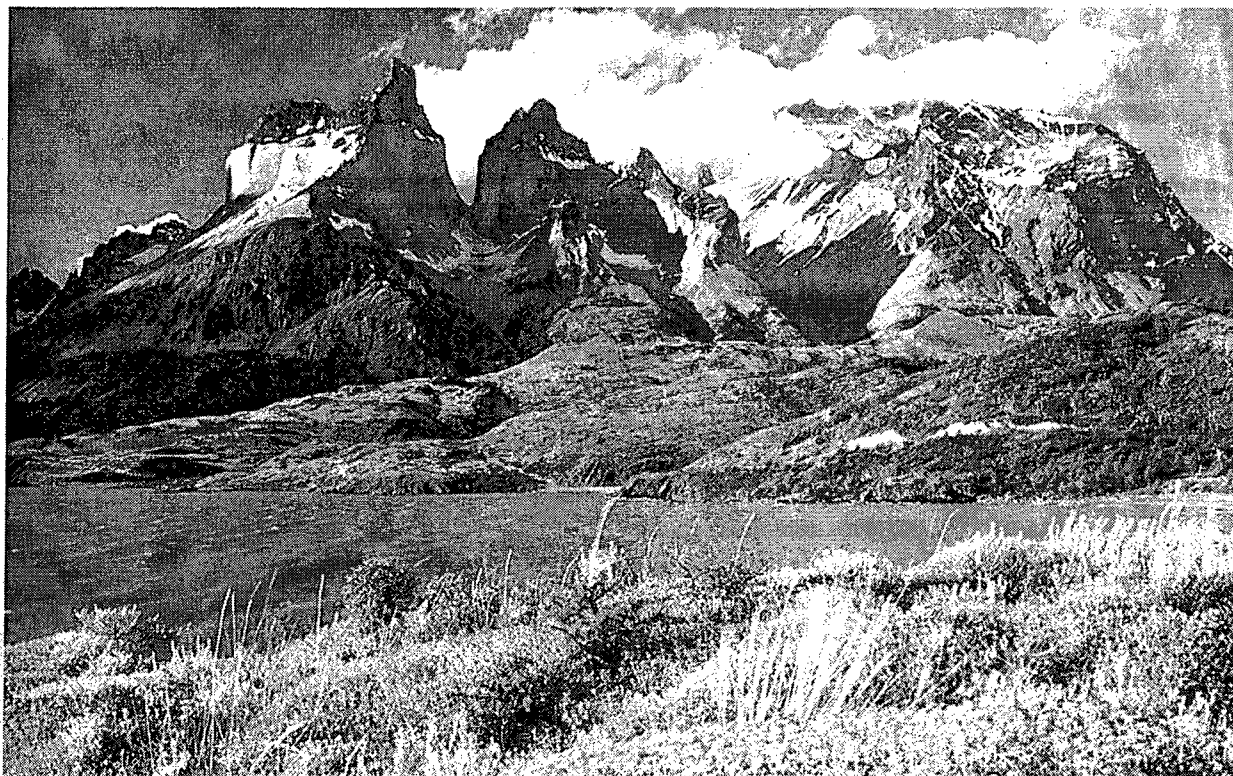
Located near the waterfall Salto Chico, whose name means 'little fall', the Hotel Salto Chico enjoys a privileged view of the Paine Massif / © Hotel Salto Chico



Lush rain forests, waterfalls, fjords, glacier-capped mountains and rivers are the stars of the Queulat National Park / © Chile Tourist Board




The deafening roar of ice breaking from the glacier is an unmistakable part of the awe-inspiring natural spectacle of the Laguna San Rafael National Park / © Chile Tourist Board





Grey Lake, Salto Grande waterfall, the Blue Lagoon and the Sierra del Toro viewpoint are just some of the spectacular features of Torres del Paine National Park / © Chile Tourist Board



The wild and rugged landscape makes much of Chile's southern territory difficult to reach by land, while sea and air access are hampered by extreme winter weather conditions / © Chile Tourist Board







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The Adventures of Travel Cat: Santiago, Chile

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March 7, 2012 at 9:00 AM | by JerseyGG | Comment (1)



Kitty cats. They rule the internet and, whether we realize it or not, pretty much the world too. Ever noticed how cats sometimes stake out the coolest spots in a city? This new feature—Travel Cat—focuses on exactly that. Submit a photo to be featured by tweeting or Instagramming it to us (details below).

Travel Cat spotted at: La Pergola de las Flores, a famous 24-hour flower market in Santiago, Chile. It specializes in elaborate wreaths for taking to the city's cemeteries. We stumbled in drunk at 2am, and this cat kept us company while we boozily contemplated purchasing a massive bouquet for our Airbnb rental apartment. We have a feeling she's a regular stray, so the likelihood of catching her lurking again at La Pergola is high.

How to submit your own Travel Cat photo to be featured:

- Have a pic of a cute cat in an interesting world location.
- Tweet it to us @Jaunted with a few words on where you took the snap.
- OR Instagram it to us by posting the pic and including us (@Jaunted) and #TravelCat in the description
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If your kitty makes the cut, we'll feature it on Travel Cat (every Wednesday!), and link to your Twitter/Instagram/Facebook—whatever social network you get down with the most.



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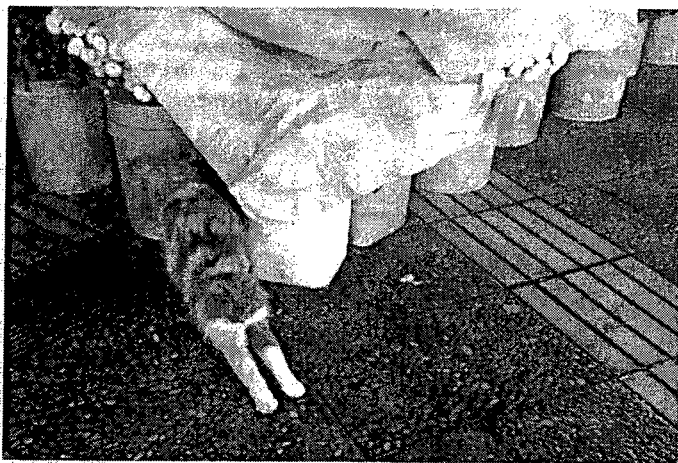

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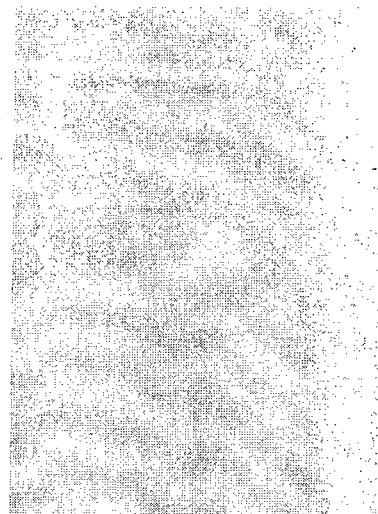

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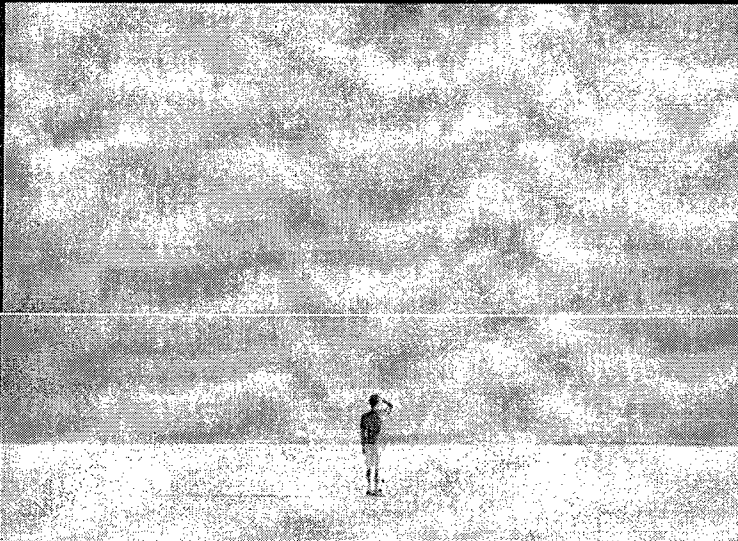
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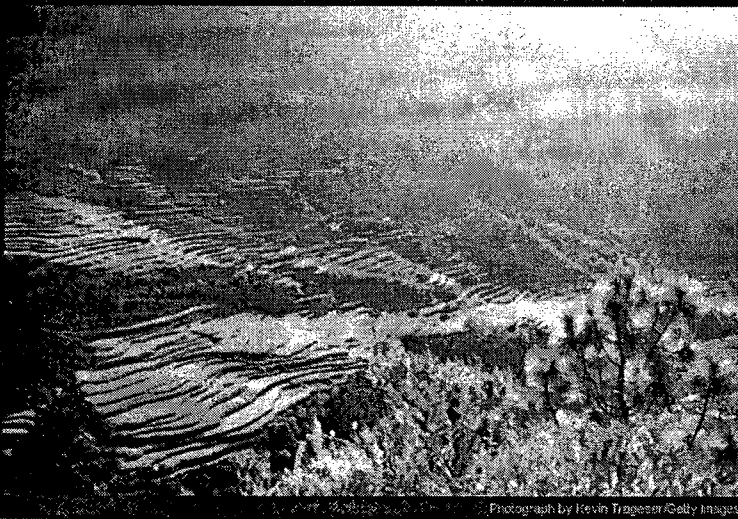
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Where Cell Phones Won't Work

Bloomberg Businessweek's Travel Issue focuses on secret thrills of business travel: from the exalted lifestyles of preferred customers to the high-stakes dealmaking that takes place 30,000 miles over the Pacific. But after weeks of conventions, meetings, and networking, even the most enthusiastic business traveler will crave the opportunity to escape and recharge. The following places don't just offer comfortable accommodations, they are also so off the grid that your boss would have to track you down on foot for that report.

Panasonic

Ideas for You



2 of 10

Read the story

Uttarakhand, India (OBARS)

In northern India's Uttarakhand, just outside the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, is Shakti, 360° Leti, a four-slab camp named for its panoramic views of the Himalayas. From New Delhi, it's nearly 12 hours by train, car, and foot to the lodge, which sits 8,000 feet above sea level. The glass-and-stone lodge has a well-curated library and solar-powered electricity. What it doesn't have: television, Internet, or cell phone coverage.

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Travel

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Posted on March 12, 2012

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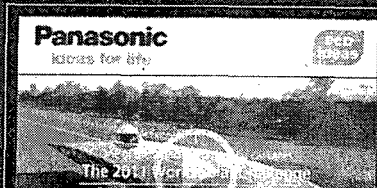


Photograph by Kevin Trageser/Getty Images

3 of 10

[Read the story](#)**The Gobi, Mongolia (OBARS)**

Mongolia is a sprawling desert nation with the world's lowest population density. In the Gurbansaikhhan National Park is the Three Camel Lodge, the region's first (and only) luxury wilderness camp. Felt-covered nomadic tents, or gers, are rustic but cozy, with hand-carved wooden beds and wood-burning stoves, and the wind- and solar-powered main lodge has a fully stocked bar.



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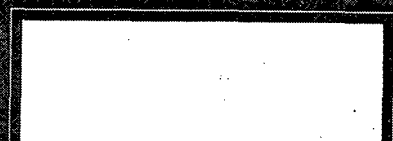


Photograph by Kevin Trageser/Getty Images

4 of 10

[Read the story](#)**Petit St. Vincent, St. Vincent & the Grenadines (OBARS)**

It's a multi-leg ordeal—commercial airliner, puddle jumper, motor yacht—to reach this 113-acre private island, favored by recluses and the occasional celeb for its throwback vibe. Forget Wi-Fi and TV—you won't even find regular phones (let alone cell phone towers) here. Island communication is via bamboo flagpole: Hike a yellow flag up the pole if you need anything, whether its room service or snorkel gear—or raise the red flag if you're looking for privacy.



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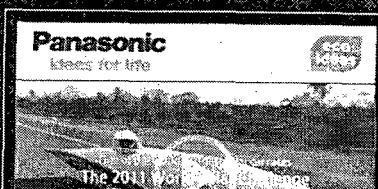


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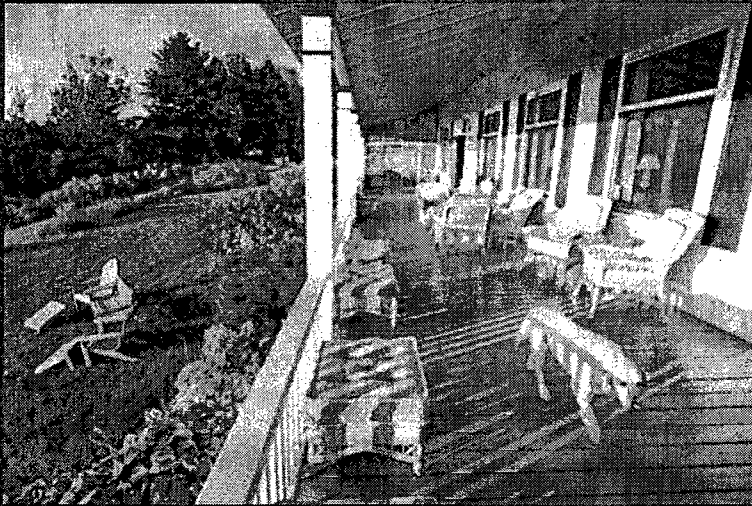
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[Read the story](#)**Hana, Maui, Hawaii (1BAR)**

Once you're in the remote town of Hana on Maui's eastern coast, the Hana-Maui Hotel is the only "real" hotel—but that's not a bad thing. The 60-acre property has no TVs or Internet access, and you'll be hard-pressed to get a cell phone signal—and that's exactly the point. Spend days by the pool or nearby Hamoa Beach. Unwind with morning yoga, a traditional Lomi Lomi massage, or a hike to the Seven Sacred Pools.



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Photograph by Kevin Trageser/Getty Images

6 of 10[Read the story](#)**Chebeague Island, Me. (2BARS)**

On Great Chebeague (shuh-Beeg), a tiny island just 10 miles off the coast from Portland, expect single-lane, sandy roads; rusty island cars with no license plates; rocky coastlines; and wild blueberries. The Greek Revival-style Chebeague Island Inn has 21 locally designed, preppy-chic rooms and a 100-foot-long porch overlooking the great lawn, where guests play badminton and croquet with the ocean in the distance. The inn's restaurant, helmed by White Barn Inn

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 advice for life

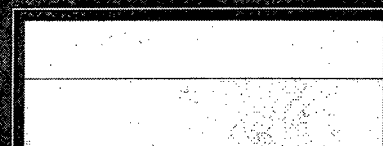

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Photograph by Kevin Trageser/Getty Images

7 of 10[Read the story](#)**Malibu, Calif. (1BAR)**

Fifty miles west of Los Angeles, Malibu may seem like an unlikely escape. But the Ranch at Live Oak is about as cut off as you can get without crossing any oceans. The estate is part boot camp, part luxe hideaway. Expect to rise early for a mandatory 10-mile hike, followed by an afternoon of yoga, body sculpting, and TRX cable-suspension training. Along with caffeine and alcohol, computers, BlackBerryes, and all other electronic devices are strictly verboten.



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Photograph by Kevin Trageser/Getty Images

8 of 10[Read the story](#)**Boundary Waters, Minn. (0BARS)**

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, which spans over 1 million acres, is a network of lakes, canoe trails, and bogs. The area is largely uninhabited, except for such wildlife as wolves, moose, and bears. Accommodations are not luxurious—your best bet is Log Cabin Hideaways, a collection of eight cabins, many of which lack electricity and indoor plumbing and are only accessible by boat or foot. The solitude is worth the sacrifice.

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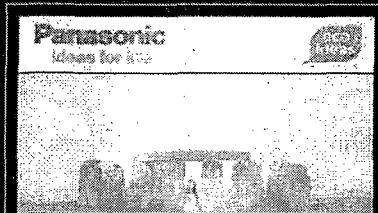
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[Read the story](#)**Pacuare, Costa Rica (OBARS)**

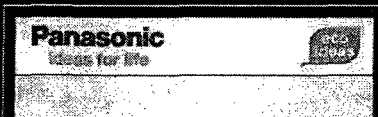
Within this jungle-like region, the 19 tree house-style bungalows that constitute the Pacuare Lodge sit high up in the canopy, with the rush of the river below. You can get there by helicopter or four-by-four, but most guests choose an hour-and-a-half, Class III raft trip. It's safe to assume cell phones won't work—and there aren't any landline phones, TVs, or even electricity, for that matter.



10 of 10

[Read the story](#)**Torres del Paine National Park, Patagonia (OBARS)**

Patagonia is the definition of remote, and the Torres del Paine National Park is the region's crown jewel. The Hotel Salto Chico, an Explora property, is five hours from the nearest airport and two hours from the nearest village. The 50-room lodge sits directly on Lago Pehoe with the jagged Paine massif in the backdrop. Once there, everything is taken care of, from photo safaris and horseback excursions to three squares a day (with an open bar and a selection of Chilean wines).



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HOT NEW HOTELS

Some top names in the field dominate this list but there are also a number of boutique properties and rising stars coming online as well. Here is our selection of Hot New Hotels that have opened since January 2011.

United States

Aulani, a Disney Resort & Spa, Honolulu

<http://resorts.disney.go.com/aulani-hawaii-resort>

This resort on Oahu's Ki'Olina coast is arguably the biggest grand opening Hawaii has seen in years, and a game changer for family travel to the islands. The hotel's authentic Hawaiian touches (never kitschy) make it notable as both a genuine island experience and a safe choice for the whole clan. Many of the rooms connect, making a two-bedroom suite an easy option. Parents and teens will love the Laniwai Spa, while kids can spend days in Auntie's Beach House. Visit www.disneytravelagents.com for booking anything at Aulani.

Hyatt 48 Lex, New York City

<http://48lex.hyatt.com>

This hidden gem in midtown Manhattan has easy access to the city's big attractions, but is intimate enough to offer a quiet escape. The Lexington Lounge is a gathering space for all guests to enjoy free coffee and snacks, and wine is available

(for purchase) in the evenings.

The Presidential Suite has a balcony that could double as a private yard. Contact: Lindsey Sears, lindsey.sears@hyatt48lex.com, 212-838-1234.

Hyatt Regency New Orleans

www.neworleans.hyatt.com

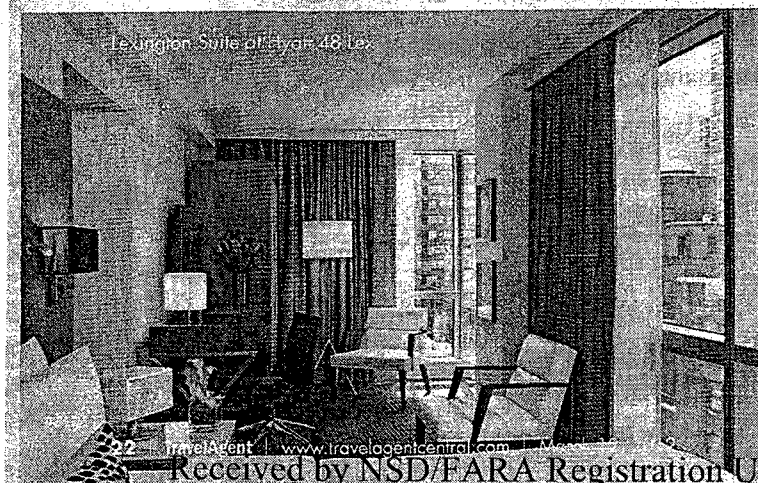
After a \$275 million redesign and revitalization, this Big Easy icon is virtually a new hotel. The entryway is now on Loyola Avenue, meeting space has doubled, the towering atrium is refreshed with modern décor and the new Vitascope Hall offers private seating areas with 25 flat-screen TVs. Borgne is the hotel's signature restaurant by John Besh, with Brian Landry, formerly of Galatoire's, as executive chef. Regency Club accommodations offer access to a 31st floor lounge with panoramic city views. Contact: Melissa Masitto, director of sales and marketing, Melissa.Masitto@hyatt.com, 504-613-3906.

Mexico

Grand Solmar Land's End Resort & Spa Cabo San Lucas

www.solmar.com

Located at the southernmost tip of the Baja Peninsula, Grand Solmar Land's End Resort & Spa Cabo San Lucas was the only new resort that opened in Los Cabos last year. All suites offer impressive views of the Pacific, but we recommend the two- to four-bedroom Penthouse Suites, which offer balconies that overlook the ocean and the iconic Land's End rock formation. These rooms are also the most popular for family reunion and multi-generational groups. Contact: Israel Gatica, director of sales, E-commerce and marketing, at israel.gatica@solmar.com; 011-52-624-145-7575, ext. 74112.





Grand Solmar Land's End Resort & Spa, Cabo San Lucas

Iberostar Cancun
www.iberostar.com

Following a \$100 million facelift, the Iberostar Cancun became the brand's ninth property in Mexico. Guest will not lack for dining options, which include the new Gran Buffet and four specialty restaurants: gourmet, Japanese, steak house and Mexican. To further enhance activities and entertainment for its guests, future updates may also include the construction of a new stage/amphitheater for shows, in addition to a kid's "Miniclub" water park and "Teenieclub" for youths. Contact: Ashley Parden, marketing manager, marketing@iberostar-hotels.com.

Riu Plaza Guadalajara Hotel
www.riuplaza.com/Guadalajara

The Riu Plaza Guadalajara is a modern 42-story building in the heart of the city. Rooms are divided into categories including Deluxe, Executive, Junior Suites, Senior Suites, Presidential Suites, and the Penthouse, occupying the top two floors and offering views of the city. Ideal for both business

and leisure travelers, the Riu Plaza Guadalajara is focused on clients who attend meetings, trade shows, family and social events, as well as anyone who travels for pleasure and seeks luxury and comfort in a modern atmosphere. Contact: Homero Villanueva, sales director, hvillanueva@riu.com, 011-52-33-3880-7532.

The Westin Guadalajara
www.starwoodhotels.com

The Westin Guadalajara began welcoming guests in September but the official ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on March 23. Offerings include the Casa de las Rosas restaurant with cuisine created by Eduardo Osuna, one of the world's most recognized Mexican chefs. The hotel's top room, height-wise and luxury-wise, is the Presidential Suite. The hotel has 20 floors, so this suite offers an impressive, 270-degree view of Guadalajara. The Westin Guadalajara is an ideal hotel for business travelers, and its location in front of the Expo Guadalajara convention center makes it a prime

choice for groups and meeting attendees. Contact: Walter Harbich, general manager, walter.harbich@westin.com, 011-52-33-3880-2700.

Caribbean

Magdalena Grand Beach Resort,
 Tobago

www.magdalenagrand.com

All rooms at Tobago's first new resort in 12 years have ocean views, but we recommend the one- and two-bedroom suites. Amenities include a PGA-designed, 18-hole golf course, Dive Center and training pool, and multiple dining options. The complimentary Club Cee Cee for kids and spacious suite configurations made it a good fit for families, and it's equally well suited for weddings and honeymoons, bird-watchers and ecotourists, and, of course, golfers and divers. Contact: Vince Angelo, general manager, vince.angelo@magdalenagrand.com, 868-660-8500.

Mystic Ridge Resort

www.mysticridgejamaica.com

Mystic Ridge Resort overlooks Ocho Rios, minutes from beaches, shops and attractions such as Mystic Mountain Rainforest Adventure Park. Loft suites are spacious, yet cozy and offer views of Ocho Rios and the Caribbean. Formerly known as Crane Ridge, the hotel closed early last year and reopened in December under the Mystic Mountain brand with an upgrade of the facilities.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

Magdalena Grand Beach Resort, Tobago



COVER STORY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

ties. Contact: Marsha Mattos, sales manager, marsha.mattos@gmail.com, 876-974-9831.

Riu Palace Bavaro, Punta Cana, D.R.
www.riu.com

This all-inclusive resort—located in the RIU Punta Cana Complex—has only suites and junior suites, including a dozen deluxe villas. High-end clients will want the Jacuzzi Suites, considered the most elegant, with fantastic sea views, free Internet, a Jacuzzi in the terrace and a hydro-massage tub in the room. Business meets pleasure with spacious meeting and convention facilities (capacity: 1,000 people) complemented by four swimming pools and a spa. The lobby bar serves ice cream and pastries, one of the many family-friendly touches. Contact: Larissa Morias, sales manager at sales.puj@riu.com, 809-731-6816.

Sandals Grande Riviera Beach & Villa Golf Resort
www.sandals.com

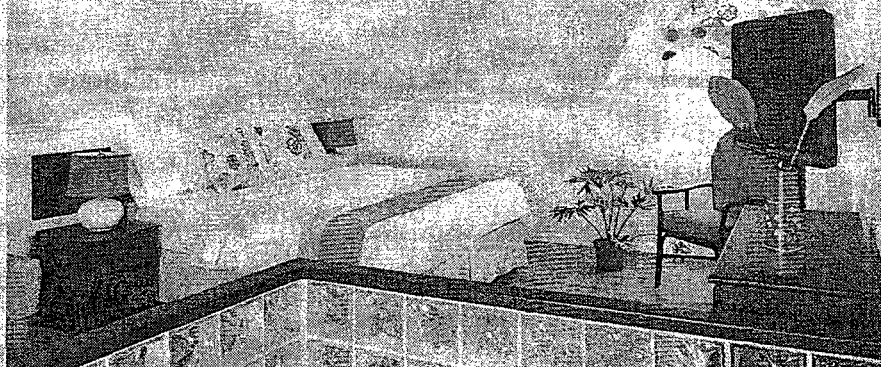
Sandals Grande Riviera Beach & Villa Golf Resort completed a \$60 million makeover in December that transformed it into a virtually brand-new property. It now boasts various types of villas including ones with new interior tiling featuring glass and mosaic accents, and new landscaped surrounding gardens. There are also private villas with shared pools and refinished pool decks with new teak patio furnishings. The ultra-luxury Butler Suites sport kitchenettes, king-size four-poster beds and large en-suite bathrooms with double vanities and sunken baths. Contact: Suelin Simpson, sales manager, ssimpson@grp.sandals.com.

Central and South America

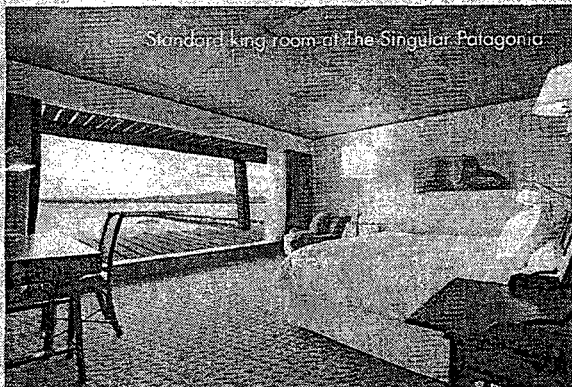
Palermo Place, Buenos Aires
www.palermoplace.com

This elegant boutique hotel's highlights include luxury rooms, each including its own French balcony, custom-designed furniture, flat-screen LCD TV with international programming and movie channels, and both on-site and

Bedroom at Mystic Ridge Resort, Jamaica



Standard king room at The Singular, Patagonia



e-concierge services. Palermo Place is ideal for clients who wish to explore all that Buenos Aires has to offer, including exclusive shopping, restaurants, historical and cultural sightseeing and outstanding nightlife. Contact: Piper Alexander, vice president of operations, piper@grupoemr.com, 334-787-6367.

The Singular Patagonia, Chile
www.thesingular.com

After nearly a century, the landmarked post-Victorian (circa 1915) Bories Cold Storage Plant breathed new life in December, reborn as The Singular Patagonia, the southern Chilean region's newest luxury retreat. The result of a meticulous 10-year restoration and renovation, Singular's rooms all feature 18-foot wide windows overlooking the Fjord of Last Hope; suite windows are twice as wide. The Singular has its own private expedition team offering more than 20 different experiences, many of which provide clients access to otherwise restricted/private land. The hotel owns two boats that are faster than most tour boats on the Fjords, allowing clients to get to the Serrano glacier an hour before any other tourists. Contact: Daniela Orellana, commercial manager, dorellana@thesingular.com, 011-506-56 2 9540480.

Trump Panama
www.trumphotelcollection.com/panama

The Trump Ocean Club International Hotel & Tower Panama is 70 stories high, making it the tallest and largest building in Latin America. Guest rooms located on the architectural "curve" of the building afford some of the most impressive

views of the Pacific Ocean. Specifically, suite No. 3422 on the 34th floor has a private terrace facing the Pacific, where guests can watch the ships head toward the Panama Canal. Thanks to floor-to-ceiling windows in the bathroom, the cityscape is also in view from the soaking tub. Contact: Thierry Baurez, director of sales and marketing, Tbaurez@trumphotels.com, 011-507-215-8877.

TRYP by Wyndham, Medellin, Colombia
www.tryphotels.com

The TRYP Medellin on Calle Colombia is in the heart of the Colombian state of Antioquia's capital city. The hotel's opening reflects Wyndham Hotel Group's strategy of introducing the TRYP by Wyndham brand in key urban markets throughout the Americas. If nightlife is what your clients crave, the hotel is just a 10-minute walk to the 70's Street Corridor, where bars, discos and restaurants can be found. The best accommodations are the Fitness Rooms, which include exercise machines right beside a window that affords a spectacular view. Contact: Santiago Agudello, sales and marketing director, mercadeo@hoteltrypmedellin.com, 011-574-604-06-86, ext 110.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

An Andrew Harper Blog

Things You Should Know

Mr. Harper's Suitcase: Packing for Chile & Patagonia



During our Chile sojourn, we traveled almost the full length of the country, with a range of climates from the desert of Atacama to the windswept steppes of Southern Patagonia and the pleasant Mediterranean conditions of the Central Valley and Santiago in between. When embarking on a journey through these varying climates, the solution is to think in terms of layers when packing.

What to pack for Patagonia and the Atacama Desert:

- » **A light, quick-dry under layer.** I use Patagonia's No. 2 Capilene in a zip-neck, which is the most breathable of the Capilene line. I bring two of these.
- » **Micro-fleece zip-necks**, which provide added warmth. I have two by The North Face that have proved most useful.
- » **A micro-fleece vest.** This is also very useful in many situations and conditions. Additionally, I wear it on airplanes for warmth.
- » **Windbreaker/rain-resistant coat.** I travel with one made by Lands' End that has served me well on many trips. It is the other part of the 3-in-1 Stormer Parka, which comes with a separate liner (which I did not bring on this trip because of its bulk).
- » **Quick-dry shirts.** I especially like those made by Mountain Hardware, the Canyon model being the one I most prefer. I bring two, one in white for being outside in bright sun, as in the desert, and a darker color, such as navy, for other times.
- » **Convertible pants**, by which I mean those that have zip-off legs so they can be worn as shorts. Mountain Hardware's Mesa model has served me well on many trips. I bring one pair in khaki and another in a dark gray.

For Santiago:

The Chileans tend to dress on the conservative side, but as we were there in warm weather, I just packed a pair of good lightweight dark wool slacks, two button-down white oxford shirts and two cashmere sweaters, one navy and one black. These covered all the bases for in-town restaurants and for the evenings at the resorts.

Don't Forget:

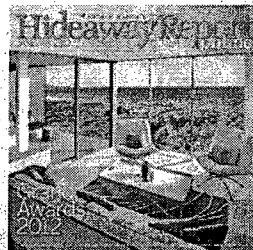
Because of the high altitudes and sun in the desert, and the depleted ozone layer in South Patagonia, protect yourself with a broad-brimmed hat – I have one made by Columbia that has been invaluable – sunglasses and ample sunblock.

View our Andrew Harper Pinterest board for product details and other inspiring photos of Chile.

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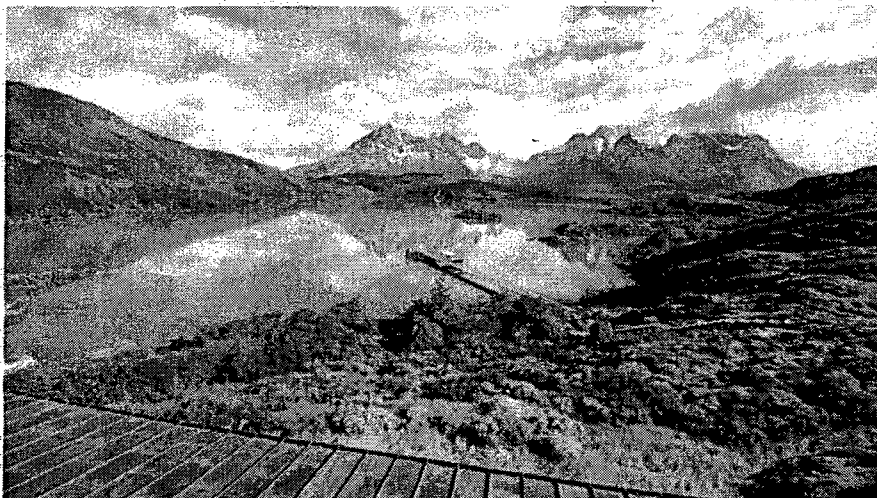
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A PATAGONIA LODGE



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Torres del Paine National Park in Patagonia. Photo credit: explora.

Fancy a **Patagonia adventure**? Then you might fancy staying at [explora's Hotel Salto Chico](#), a luxury lodge in the heart of **Torres del Paine National Park** in central Patagonia.

On the banks of the Salto Chico waterfall, the lodge has views of Paine Massif and two of the three *torres* (towers). Situated on a 7.4 acre site, the lodge features **49 rooms** and "inviting spaces."

At the mountain lodge, the explora team offers mountain travelers some **35+ diverse explorations** on foot or horseback. With Hotel Salto Chico as their base, all adventures are lead by trained bilingual explora guides.

The mountain lodge recently reopened following fires in Torres del Paine National Park. Since reopening, the explora team has expanded its trips with **11 new explorations**: five half-day treks, five full-day treks and one full-day of horseback riding.

Several of these trips are in the north area of Torres del Paine National Park, where explora also has two **estancias** (ranches), **Estancia 2 de Enero** and **Santa Gemita**.

The **new explorations** include:

- **Full-Day Walk to The Horns:** This exploration follows the densely vegetated foothills of Mount Almirante Nieto through the Antarctic beech forests.
- **Horseback Ride to Toro Heights:** Starting on a steep, sandy trail, this exploration leads onto the trail of Lake Toro towards Toro Heights where travelers can view Pampa Serrano and the Grey Glacier.
- **Half-Day Walk to New Nodenskjold:** On this exploration, the trail crosses sloping grass covered hills and offers views of the Paine Massif and the glaciers of Mount Almirante Nieto and Lake Larga.

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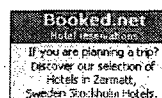
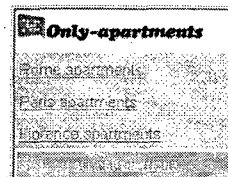
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Wednesday, March 14, 2012



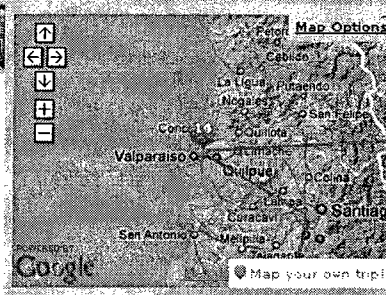
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Today we spent a lovely day on the beach in Viña del Mar which is only about 10 k from Valparaiso. This is the Chileans favourite seaside town but we are now in the beginning of autumn and all the holidaymakers have gone back to work and the children started school again at the beginning of March. The beach was lovely and empty but the water was really cold so no swim for me. I was told the temperature never goes above +12C and that is far too cold especially when you also have to deal with very large waves. (you will need a wetsuit) but we didn't see anyone in the water at all

Viña has a nice centre which is quite lively at night. Lots of bars and little cafes. Lots of young people about - mainly students since there are some universities there as well!!!



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Uxvertham

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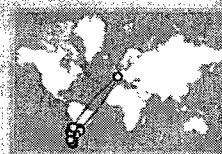
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Trip Start

Trip End

Santiago, Chile
Friday, March 16, 2012

Like One person likes this.

The second day in [Potosi](#), my friends went to learn about the mining and about how the miners make sacrifices to a little statue of the devil (using cigarettes and alcohol) as they work underground. I strolled the picturesque little streets and watched people.

In the afternoon it was time to head off to Uyuni. The scenery as we headed towards the desert was absolutely breathtaking. I'm having a hard time not being able to stop to take photos but try my best having a steady hand shooting out the window. If I was doing this trip by myself I'd still be in Peru and not moving like the wind as we have been doing!

Uyuni is a little dusty place in the Atacama desert, and the first night there a little sand-storm caused a beautiful and magical light in the desert town accompanied by a perfect rainbow.



Laguna Verde

stretched out for miles, this is a place of wonder. And the perfect place for playing around with perspective which resulted in a very fun-filled and silly photo session...

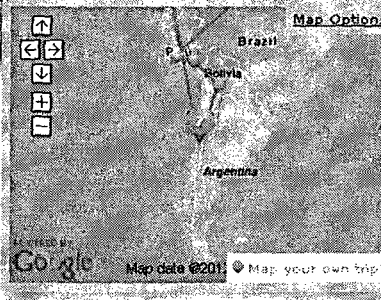
For a couple of days we travelled in the 4WD seeing absolutely amazing scenery. "Laguna Colorada", a stunning lake with a color from algae that makes it red, dotted with comical-looking flamingos. "Laguna Verde", another beautiful lake with a surface like a mirror reflecting a perfect volcano.

At one time we stopped for a little snowball fight in the Bolivian Andes, surrounded by mountains and llamas. Out of this world! The nights were spent in very rustic mountain refuges, and it was coooold! Luckily I'd rented a sleeping bag, so I curled up like a pea in a pod before getting my well needed shut-eye.

A freezing morning of getting up at 4am set us off exploring some bubbling geysers, checking out some hot springs in the sunrise, and eventually across the border to Chile. Here we did a little tour of the moon valley, watching the sun set casting its warm rays on the moon like rocks. Beauty overload...

One of my new-found friends was very unfortunate and got a very bad stomach when we were here. Naturally as you may imagine there are no toilets in these places and she had to do her business there and then. In the open spaces, people in all directions, "Moon Valley" now has a double meaning to some I'm sure...

A day later and I'm enjoying the warmth and sun in San Pedro de Atacama in Chile after a night of delicious food and a lot of wine and dancing... We had dinner at a restaurant down the little dusty main street, then made what



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Flamingos

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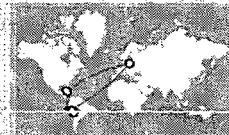
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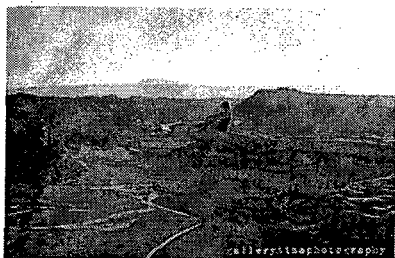
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Moon valley

was supposed to be a short stop in a pub. It didn't turn out to be a short stop... The only thing they served was beer, and only in one liter bottles. They didn't even have water! So four bottles later and as the bars had closed, we bought a couple of bottles of wine and ended up in a closed bar that let us in for a small tip and we drank and danced and laughed and played until morning.

I am right now in Santiago, the bustling and busy capital of Chile. I have millions of photos to share but will start with a few now and add more soon. Now it's time to head out for another day of exploring this town before it's time for me to head to Cuba.

The scenery so far has been out of this world as I know it... Beauty overload! And there's still more to come so please stay tuned for more photos from spectacular South America but posted from wonderful Havana, where I'm going to pick up my heart because I think I left it somewhere there in November...
Til then, mil besos!!!!



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Life in the Fast Lane

McKinn's Profile About this blog Entry from Valparaiso

Trip Start

Trip End

Valparaiso, Chile
 Monday, March 19, 2012

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March 17. St. Patrick's Day is not celebrated here, so no green beer or Irish stew for us today.

We have been invited by Leo (our neighbour) to go into Valparaiso and explore some of the areas that we have not seen on our previous visits. As he has no English and we have no Spanish, he invites Esperanza, our other neighbour, to accompany us as interpreter. We would have paid a lot for a private tour such as this, complete with driver and guide, but all it costs us is a tank of gas. We are extremely fortunate.



where I stayed
 Alto Eden 45
 Valparaiso Hotels

The sky is changing from overcast to full sun, so we are able to enjoy the city much more than on our previous visits. We stop first at Mirador Marina Merchante for an overview of the whole of Valparaiso. Then it is on to two of



Mirador Marina Merchante

the many funiculars that transport people up and down the nearly 50 hills that make up the city. And what would be a visit to a coastal port on a Saturday without a stop at the extensive fish market, Calenta Portales. To keep us entertained, the fisherman empty the fish entrails over the side of the pier to the waiting sea wolves (known in

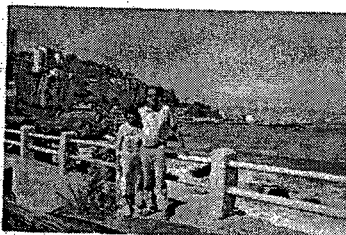
other parts of the world as sea lions) below. There is a huge scramble for the delicacies every time a bucket is emptied.

Leo continues the drive north to reach Vina del Mar, a resort community just past

Valparaiso. Vina is very different from Valparaiso as it boasts lovely sandy beaches and upscale accommodations.



The Sea Wolves



Vina del Mar

And then it is time to eat and enjoy another sampling of the delicious wine that Chile produces. Leo has learned one new English expression: "Let's go" has been added to his vocabulary and he finds numerous times during the day to use it in encouraging us to move along to the next activity. And the last activity is a stop at a huge fruit and vegetable market. With me in tow, Esperanza selects fresh corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, cauliflower and grapes for us to take back to our casa. All this for less than \$6.

We finally meet Paloma, Leo's daughter, home for a holiday. When Esperanza isn't available, Leo resorts to phoning his daughter in Santiago to translate. She must hate those calls as he speaks to her in Spanish and then passes the phone to me so that his questions can be asked of me in English, then back to him, then to me, etc. Hopefully cell phone charges are cheap here. Everyone, including Esperanza who hates technology, carries one.

It's Saturday night in Laguna Verde and our local restaurant is open for dinner. As this is not the case during the

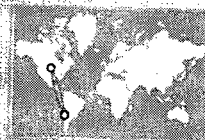
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week, we eat out for the second time today. We are never quite sure what we are ordering, but so far, so good.

March 18. We are back to a quiet day at Laguna, not that there is anything but quiet days here. Some observations:

1. If you stay here, you must love dogs. There are definitely more dogs out and about in Laguna than there are people. The dogs roam freely and leave deposits everywhere, so you have to take care where you walk.
2. If schools aren't going to teach a variety of languages, they should at least teach students how to play charades. In traveling to a country where you don't speak the language, charades are extremely helpful. Case in point - I asked Esperanza where I could do laundry. She has her neighbour do hers and asked her neighbour if she were willing to do mine as well. That part was easy as she was there to translate. Later on, I was "communicating" directly with the neighbour and hand signals and finger walking were the only way for both of us to get our points across. Laundry got done, neighbour got paid, all was good.

March 19. Esperanza invites us for a walk near the river that runs from the ocean and bisects Laguna. She loves nature and that is the reason she has moved from Santiago, with 7 million people, to this small community of a few hundred. She is wonderful at pointing out the variety of vegetation, most of which is foreign to us. She has been a wonderful addition to our time in Laguna. She is always willing to translate, she is willing to spend time with us and show us her part of Chile from the perspective of a Chilean. For a thank you gift, we have found the perfect gift for her... a bottle of Late Harvest Chilean wine. Hope she likes it!



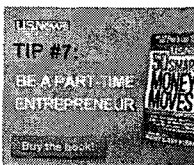
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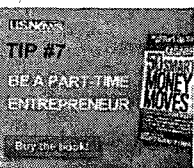
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The 18 Best Places to Retire Overseas

by KATHLEEN PEDICORP

March 31, 2012 RSS Feed Print

When choosing a place to spend your retirement years, the cost of living is important. But it is only one consideration. The ideal retirement spot is a place where you can live a rich life filled with friends, travel, discovery, physical and intellectual distractions, and opportunities for growth. A super-low cost of living is great, but more important is the quality of life your retirement budget is buying you.

Many of the best options for enjoying an enormously enriched retirement lifestyle on even a very modest budget can be found overseas. Here are the world's 18 top retirement havens, where an interesting, adventure-filled lifestyle is available for a better-than-reasonable cost.

The Americas

1. Panama. Panama is the world's top retirement haven. Panama City no longer qualifies as cheap, but other spots in this country certainly do. Panama continues to offer the world's gold standard program of special benefits for retirees. The currency is the U.S. dollar, so there is no exchange rate risk if your retirement savings and income is in dollars. The climate in Panama City and on the coasts is tropical, hot, and humid.

However, the climate in the highlands can be temperate and tempting. Panama is the hub of the Americas, meaning it's easily accessible from anywhere in North and South America and Europe.

2. Belize. Belize is a great place for reinventing your life in retirement. This tiny, under-developed, sparsely populated country offers two distinct lifestyle options: Ambergris Caye is the best of the Caribbean at a discount, while the Cayo is a frontier where independent-minded pioneers can make their own way and do their own thing, peacefully and privately. The climate is tropical, warmer on the coast, and cooler in the mountainous interior. The official language is English, so there's no foreign language barrier for Americans. You'll find a well-established and welcoming community of expats in San Pedro and on Ambergris Caye, and an emerging community of expats in the Cayo around San Ignacio.

3. Colombia. Medellin, a city of springtime and flowers, is the unsung jewel of Colombia. This city is pretty, sophisticated, cosmopolitan, safe, and affordable. Perhaps the most appealing advantage in Medellin is the cost of real estate. It's an absolute global bargain. You can buy property in a good neighborhood for as little as \$1,000 per meter.

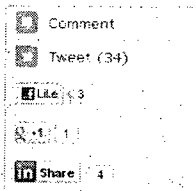
Medellin's second biggest appeal is its climate, which is spring-like year-round, thanks to the high elevation. Medellin is a more developed city than you might imagine, with five of the best hospitals in Latin America, universities, museums, art galleries, and an efficient and reliable metro system. It also has international-standard shopping and many interesting nightlife options. If you fancy Paris or other Continental city choices, but don't want or can't afford Europe, I strongly recommend you take a look at Medellin. This city is one of the best places in the world to hang your hat.

4. Uruguay. It seems that the more troubled the rest of the world becomes, the more people are finding appeal in Uruguay, a stable commodity-based economy with a sound banking system. Uruguay is neither an aggressor nor a target of aggression in the world arena, and it's not a high-stakes player in world politics. Costs have risen in recent years thanks to the

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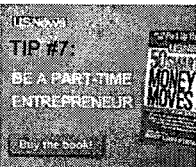


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strength of the Uruguayan peso and the sinking value of the dollar. But, even as the cost of living and of real estate rose, Uruguay has become even more popular as a lifestyle and retirement destination. Accordingly, people are coming to Uruguay in record numbers, with residency applications up over 300 percent since 2007, many of these coming from the United States.

5. Ecuador. Ecuador is perhaps the best choice in the Americas for a retiree looking to enjoy a rich and interesting quality of life on a limited budget. I recommend Cuenca, the former Inca and Spanish capital, a current UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the intellectual heart of Ecuador. Cuenca is home to about 1,500 full-time residents from North America. This is not a big number compared with some more recognized Mexican retirement choices, but Cuenca clearly qualifies as an expat-friendly city, offering one of the most interesting retirement lifestyles available anywhere. Amenities include theater, orchestra, shows, restaurants, broadband Internet service, reliable electricity and telephone, and drinkable tap water.

Cuenca's appeal as a retirement haven is expanding in important ways, thanks to a recently developed program promoting the city as a medical tourism destination. The city's five top hospitals have joined together to offer bundled programs of medical tests, procedures, and services available for from \$66 to \$401. Costs for comparable services in the United States would be multiples of these amounts. In addition, Cuenca is now offering nursing care of a standard suitable for and appealing to the expat retiree at a cost of just \$450 per month, including 24-hour doctor and nurse attendance, food, laundry, personal care, and occupational and rehabilitative therapy.

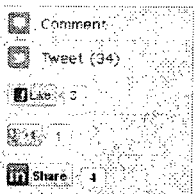
6. Nicaragua. Another top choice for a retiree with a very limited budget is Nicaragua. This country's Pacific coastline is every bit as dramatically beautiful as that of neighboring Costa Rica. Infrastructure is under-developed in both countries, but the cost of living and especially real estate are noticeably lower in Nicaragua, making the pot-holed roads easier to bear. Nicaragua also boasts two of the top Spanish-colonial cities in the Americas: Granada, a pretty and romantic city that everyone should see once, and Leon. Both places were founded in the early 16th century by Cordoba.

7. Roatan, Honduras. I'm not a big fan of mainland Honduras, which is under-developed and, in some places, unsafe. However, the Bay Island of Roatan is a world apart and one of my two top picks for affordable retirement in the Caribbean (the other is Ambergris Caye, Belize).

8. Argentina. Argentina is a dynamic and charming nation that rides perpetually between crisis and boom. This rich country boasts abundant natural resources and offers many appealing retirement lifestyle choices, including the eclectic and cosmopolitan neighborhoods of Buenos Aires, the provincial capitals, a finca in the countryside, and a boutique vineyard in Mendoza. Retirement life in Argentina could be many things, but never dull. The downside is a rising cost of living, thanks to local inflation and the falling value of the U.S. dollar versus the Argentine peso.

9. Mexico. This is historically one of the most recognized retirement havens for Americans. But Mexico today is suffering from a lot of bad press thanks to its drug wars. However, Mexico is a big country, and the drug goons haven't overtaken it entirely. It continues to offer some of the best coastal lifestyle and retirement options in the Americas, including Puerto Vallarta, my number-one choice for an affordable life of luxury on the Pacific. A couple could enjoy a a five-star retirement in this beautiful and romantic coastal town of marinas, golf courses, yacht clubs, and fine dining on a budget of as little as \$2,500 per month.

10. Chile. Chile is a developed, First World destination that is also quiet, safe, and stable. Unlike its more scandalous neighbor, Argentina, Chile offers a cultured, comfortable lifestyle that is relatively calm. Santiago is a city of classic-style architecture, cobblestoned streets, and cafes with outdoor seating, in many ways reminiscent of Paris or Barcelona. This city of 7 million is also remarkably clean and friendly and boasts a diverse and expanding property market

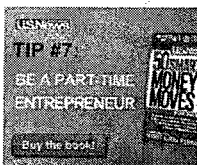


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that is affordable on a global scale. You could own property at some of the city's best addresses for less than \$2,000 a meter. One important downside to retirement in Santiago is the air pollution, which is a serious problem, especially during the winter months. A better option could be the country's beautiful Lake District to the south of Santiago, which is a favorite retirement choice among Chileans themselves.

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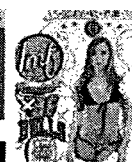
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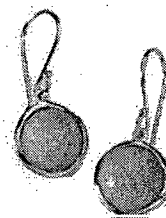
Festival season is quickly approaching and it's shaping up to be a damn good summer. Last week all rumors of Lollapalooza being relocated were squashed and we couldn't be happier that it's going to remain in here in Chicago. The festival is scheduled for August 3-5, 2012 and will take place in Grant Park. Lolla made a special announcement via Twitter yesterday stating they will be releasing their "Souvenir" tickets sometime this week but if you miss those then the general release will begin on March 27th for \$200.

"The Lolla \$75 Secret Sale is happening this week. But we can't tell you exactly when, or else it wouldn't be a secret!"

There has been no official lineup release but plenty of rumors circulating around the internet. So far the following names have been mentioned in the latest rumors: Headliners will be Metallica, Red Hot Chili Peppers, The Killers, Beck, Beyonce, and Sonic Youth. Other acts include Skrillex in a set with Korn, Noisia, Bassnectar, M.I.A., Calvin Harris, Flux Pavilion, Wax, Mard Fustang, and Knife Party, The Shins, M83, Joan Jett & The Blackhearts, Gotye, St. Vincent, Surfer Blood, Kimbra, Real Estate, Crosses, Sleigh Bells, Bombay Bicycle Club, Antlers, Passion Pit, Odd Future, Wolf Gang, Will Kill Them All, Wale, At The Drive In, Garbage, Missy Elliott, Gaslight Anthem, Guided By Voices, ANVOLUTION.



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Greening the Glass

BY TIM PAWSEY, NORTH SHORE NEWS MARCH 21, 2012

As a wine region, Chile already enjoys a built-in culture of sustainability, thanks in great part to its natural geographic isolation. Bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the west, the Andes to the east, the Atacama desert to the North, and the Antarctic to the south, the world's longest and narrowest country enjoys a unique topographical buffer that has protected it from some of the worst ravages - including the late 19th century outbreak of Phylloxera that destroyed the French wine industry.

However, the Chileans also walk the sustainable walk, perhaps more than any other country on the planet. They were among the first to introduce a more carbon footprintfriendly, lighter wine bottle.

Even some of the largest Chilean producers, such as Concha y Toro-owned Cono Sur, have the most advanced organic and biodynamic practices. The winery - which in 2007 became the world's first to be carbon-neutral - was a proactive organic pioneer, embarking early on environmentally balanced programs.

Instead of pesticides, Cono Sur's Matias Rios introduced flocks of geese into the vineyard to control destructive pests like the vine destroying "burrito", planted natural ground covers for weed control, used garlic as a natural repellent, and even encouraged workers to use bicycles instead of motorized transport whenever possible. The latter resulted in the winery's now familiar "bicycle label," considered one of the most widely available and affordable organic brands.

Biodynamic pioneer Alvaro Espinoza, who oversees Fair Trade flag-bearer Viña Emiliana's seven farms in four valleys (in Casablanca, Cachapoal, Maipo, Colchagua and Bio-Bio) says "We do it as much to protect the people who work in the vineyards as for the wine."

Emiliana's flagship Coyam highlights the sense of place, says Espinoza, rather than the six varieties which make up the blend, he suggests.

Chile's "first out of the gate" approach, combined with its relatively benign environment (often referred to as a "winemaker's paradise") has given it a leg up in the sustainable and organic-biodynamic sweepstakes.

Also, the country's plantings beyond the original Valle Central in developing regions on the coast and at higher elevations in the Andes foothills - first explored by groundbreakers such as Montes - have also assisted in making the transition to more sustainable practices.

While most Chilean wineries already follow sustainable practices, only 14 of the country's producers have met the new rigorous government-overseen requirements - which examine every aspect of winemaking and packaging - to proclaim their products as "Certified Sustainable Wine of Chile." If you're keen to be a sustainable sipper, look for wines from the following Chilean leaders: Anakena, Arboleda, Caliterra, Casa Silva, Cremaschi Furlotti, Emiliana, Errázuriz, Montes, MontGras, Santa Cruz, Santa Emä, Santa Rita, Ventisquero and Via Wines.

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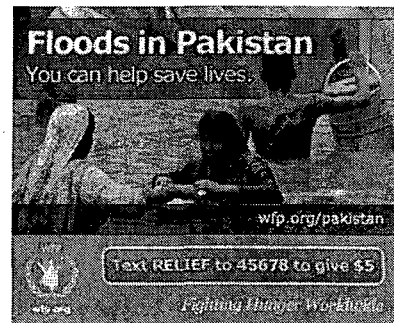
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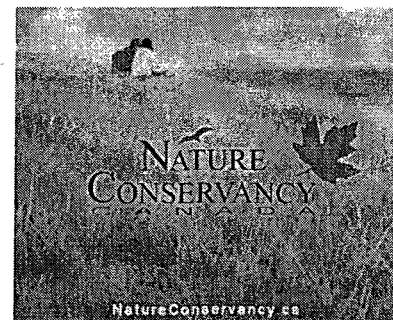
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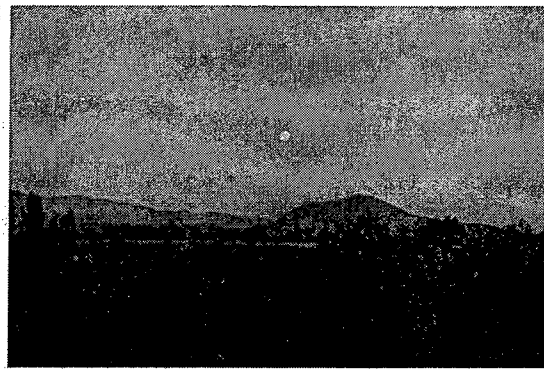
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Travel photo of the day: Moon rising over the Andes



Submitted by Matthew Gefroh / UNP

A sunset view south of Santa Cruz, Chile, captures a full moon rising above the Andes.

Matt Gefroh and his wife were on their way to Chile's wine region, driving from Pucon to Santa Cruz, when they stopped by the road to photograph vineyards in the setting sun. Then they spotted the full moon.



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"As with most of the weather my wife and I experienced in Chile, the skies were clean and clear and seemed to stretch out forever," Gefroh told TODAY.com.

"This photo is a composition of two identical photos at different exposure levels," he said. "I knew it would be difficult to adequately capture the colors of the dusk sky along with the details of the bright moon so I snapped several photos and used Photoshop to merge them together."

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ADRIAN LYSENKO

From Saturday's Globe and Mail

Published Friday, Mar. 23, 2012 11:31AM EDT

Last updated Friday, Mar. 23, 2012 1:13PM EDT

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"What was that?" my fiancée whispered to me in the middle of the night in our tent.

I was already awake and heard the loud thunder-like sound. For a moment, I had to reorient myself, we were not back home in

Ontario where thunderstorms were common. We were in Torres del Paine National Park in Chile halfway through the five-day "W" trek, and what sounded like thunder was actually large chunks of ice cracking off Grey Glacier falling into the lake below.

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Earlier that day, we came across a refugio, a chalet-style house. Here, hikers sat outside on picnic tables enjoying the afternoon sun. With our legs and backs aching from a two-hour climb, and our faces red from the sun, we decided to join them and drank semi-cold \$10 cans of Austral beer. We saw two young huasos (Chilean cowboys) continue up the trail. Despite the heat, the young men wore long leather boots, dark pants, sweaters and berets. They were leading five horses packed with propane tanks and planks of wood, to repair, we were told, the sketchy bridges we would later cross up the trail.

But the bridges we reached later that day hadn't been fixed yet. Over a fast-flowing glacier-fed river, a sign in both Spanish and English warned that only one person at a time should cross. With white knuckles holding onto the rope railings, I couldn't help be reminded of the bridge in India Jones and the Temple of Doom. I carefully put each foot forward avoiding the missing planks where I could see the whitewater rushing below. They usually tell people afraid of heights not to look down, but in this case I had to look down in order to avoid falling through. Somehow we both made it across without mishap and in the twilight of the day we reached the campsite.

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From here, it was an hour hike to the spectacular view of the Towers of Paine mountain summits, the iconic centrepiece of the park. The best time to see the summit was in the glow of the morning light, but the next morning there was no sun. "It's raining," I said to Krista. "Do you just want to go back to bed?" Her reply was a snore.

We had been warned that even in the summer you could experience four seasons of weather in the park. And later that day we got lucky. When we eventually reached the Towers of Paine, there was nothing but blue skies behind the impressive mountain summit. But our luck didn't hold. "Couldn't ask for better weather on this trip," Krista said as we were leaving our campsite. I grimaced, hoping that she had not angered the weather gods.

No sooner had we started up the trail when strong winds picked up and swayed us from side to side. We crossed more sketchy bridges with waves of rain assaulting us. Then, brief periods of snow.

We arrived at our next campsite feeling a bit beaten by the weather but not defeated. As I lay awake listening to the thunderous glacier, I realized - despite the rough terrain and rougher weather - this was the Patagonian experience we had been dreaming of.

kids

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FOOD

Chile, A Melting Pot of Flavours from South America

March 25, 2012 8:45 am • Section Food

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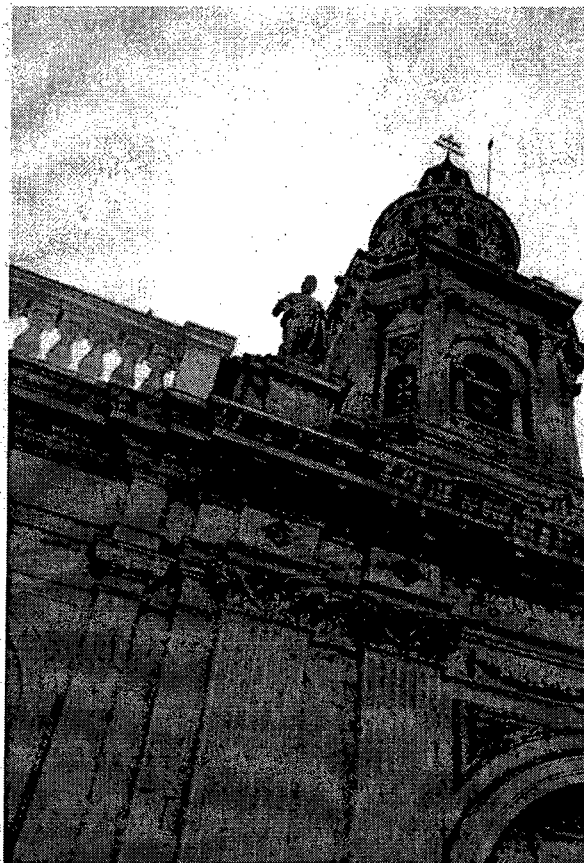
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Posted on Nov 25, 2011A Hong Kong Culinary Adventure 2011
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The last time I was in South America was some 20 years ago when I visited the fortified city of Cartagena, Columbia. It was stunning to see the famed walled city built by the Spanish centuries ago and to see one of their former conquests.

This time, I'm headed to Chile and Argentina, both former Spanish New World colonies that have gone through tumultuous political and economic times since their independence. I'm going not as a tourist (well, a bit) but to see some of their wonderful wineries, which have been producing stellar wines since arriving into our North American market the past few decades.

WE RECOMMEND

Blade shots of Blade's Heather Morris reportedly surface on internet

Two men shot outside upscale downtown Vancouver restaurant (Warning: graphic images)

Slain judge left large portion of estate to friend's teenage daughter

Culinary and Wine Of Argentina: Buenos Aires to Cafayete

Hard times for teachers-on-call, Part 2

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10 Signs You May Be in an Emotionally Abusive Relationship (HealthCentral.com)

How to Use a French Press (Taste for Adventure)

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What's this?



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COMMUNITY BLOG SECTIONS

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Life

Opinion

After flying to Lax, we board LAN Airlines, one of the signature airlines of South America to fly straight to Chile's capital, Santiago. As it's my first experience with this international carrier, I'm impressed with the comfort and quality service of the airline. Decent food and wine service along with ample leg room makes me a happy traveler especially when you have an overnight flight! Unfortunately we can't have a lengthy sleep as we stop briefly in Lima before continuing on. Thank god for those little pills!

We arrive early at 5:45am and are transferred to one of the city's latest hotels, the contemporary glass and concrete NOI Vitacura located in one of Santiago's trendy upmarket areas (quickly noticing the Diesel store...). After a on-so-brief few hours of rest, we're greeted by Gail Thornton from Wines of Chile and taken to see some of Santiago's food sites.

Before visiting, I didn't realize that that Chile was such a long and narrow country, with some 4300km of coastline, with the average width of 200km wide. Because of the massive length of the country, there is an immense variety of climates and soil types, from the Atacama Desert (considered the driest in the world) to the polar Antartica.

Arriving to Santiago de Chile, the national's capital, located in the middle of the country's central valley, I arrived to one of Latin America's most modern metropolitan cities, with gleaming skyscrapers and towers soaring upwards from the valley floor to the heights of the surrounding mountains.

With my limited time in this sprawling valley metropolis, I managed to visit their original brick and iron clad central market buildings filled with a glorious bounty of early summer fruits from cherries, strawberries and grapes from the south to a cornucopia of tropical fruits from the north, mangoes, pineapples and my favourite cherimoya, or custard apple. We get this luscious fruit, native from the Andes, when in season, in our Asian markets, but they never have the same flavour intensity as they did down there. Perfectly ripe, custardy soft, sweet and aromatic with an infused flavour blend liken to banana, pineapple, papaya, peach and chawberries...all in one fruit! The Chileans love eating their cherimoyas, simple...with a drizzling of fresh squeezed orange juice!

With the country's elongated coastline, I wasn't surprised to see the vast variety of seafood available at their Mercado Central, from the ubiquitous seabass, tuna, sweet scallops and salmon to more adventurous gooseneck barnacles and wild abalone, crustaceans long barred from legal fishing on our local coastline.

But it was the city's outlying valleys I was here for...to visit some of the country's important wineries.

As we honoured this year's Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival with the featured country of Chile, not only did we celebrate their wonderful wines, but we experienced a cornucopia of Chilean cuisine at the various culinary events. Chilean cuisine is a fusion of various countries that have influenced this country over the years, which stem from mainly Spanish and other European cuisines, such as German, French as well as the Middle East.

Ceviche, the popular seafood dish which originated in Peru and adopted by Chile with its love for seafood, is typically made with fresh raw seafood "cooked" by marinating in citrus juices and laced with various seasonings such as chilies, cilantro, and onions. You'll also find their infamous empanadas, the wonderfully savoury baked or fried pastries stuffed with a variety of fillings, from aromatic minced beef, chicken to cheese. Throughout my culinary travels in the south, I almost regularly ordered them when I saw empanadas on the menu to see how much they varied from region to region. Towards the end of my travels, my traveling companion started to complain that his body shape was turning into an empanada!

One of the remarkable ingredients I was introduced to was merkén, the smoked chili spice blend which was originated from their indigenous Mapuches people from the south of Chile. I love any spiced with chiles, but this unique blend is nothing like I've ever tasted...a mild smokiness, but with depth, a fiery heat, but not too intense, with aroma from the toasted coriander and cumin seeds. According to Gourmet Warehouse's Caren McSherry, "it seems that whenever anyone returns from Chile, the first thing they ask us for is Merkén!"

But it's the superb wines that impressed me on my visit. The passion, the history and the quality of wines including the most biodynamic and organic productions I have ever encountered. Not to mention the great dishes cooked and paired with these showcase wines. It seems like it was a matter of a couple decades ago that Chilean wines were seen as just a common table wine with the average quality that was produced. Now, the table has turned, and with modern technology, and care for the land, the country is producing some outstanding international quality wines.

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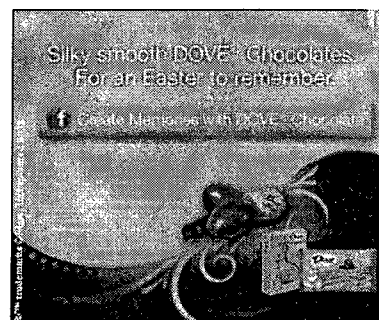
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Renaissance hotel in development in Chile's capital

By Danny King

Chile's first Renaissance hotel will open next year in Santiago.

The 181-room hotel will be a franchised property that is part of a mixed-use complex that includes an office building. The hotel will have a full-service restaurant as well as a lounge and a coffee bar.

Renaissance parent Marriott International is looking to benefit from a Chilean economy that's one of the most dynamic in a region where international tourism is growing rapidly.

Last year, South American countries boosted international tourism visits by 10%, compared with 4% growth in worldwide cross-border travel, the United Nations' World Tourism Organization said in January.

The only other Renaissance in South America is in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Follow Danny King on Twitter @dtktravelweekly.

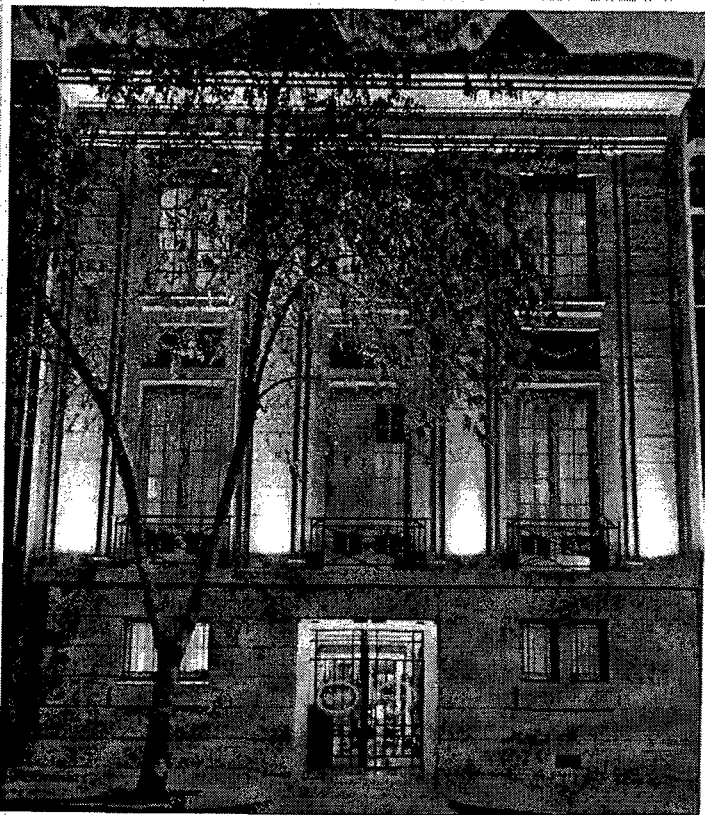
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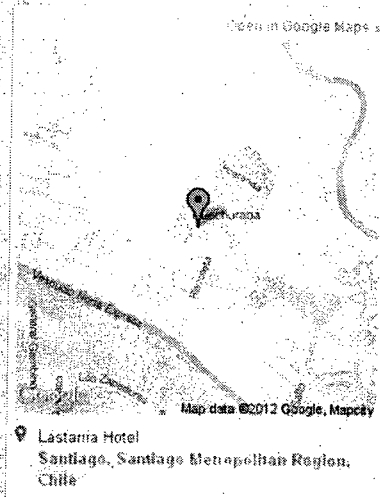
Lastarria Hotel, Santiago, Chile

The family-owned Lastarria Hotel occupies a restored 1920s French colonial home in the lively Lastarria district. Request a room with a balcony so you can people-watch into the evening before sampling cold cuts on the restaurant's candlelit patio. *From \$330. Coronel Santiago Buera 188, Barrio Lastarria, 56/(0)2-840-3700, lastarriahotel.com.*

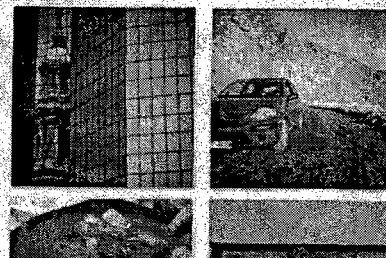
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More Highlights from Santiago





MONTHLY ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR TURISMO CHILE
Public Relations, Trade & Advertising Program
April 2012

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Individual/Group Press Trips

The agency worked with Turismo Chile to finalize the arrangements for the press trip – March 15-27 for two writers, March 15-22 for a third, and March 16-27 for the fourth – with A. Saenz and the agency coordinating efforts to secure hotels and air. Final itineraries and flight confirmations were sent to journalists on March 9. Despite the fact that all media forms were submitted to LAN Chile four weeks in advance, international air had to be purchased by TC on March 8/9 because LAN did not respond in a timely way – replying belatedly on March 12 *after* the tickets had been purchased. LAN did provide access to their VIP lounges where available (Joe Yogerst was the exception as he had to be booked on American Airlines). Brian Major's first column on Santiago appeared in *TravelPulse* before the end of March.

Similarly the agency had to purchase outbound international flights for writers James Sturz and Paula de la Cruz from NYC to Brazil (en route to Argentina prior to Chile) although LAN did finally provide domestic flights (including to/from Balmaceda and Easter Island) and the international flights home from Santiago. The writers were accommodated at Dos Lagos, Hangaroa on Easter Island and briefly at The Aubrey in Santiago. As promised, they also secured their own accommodations in the capital. Feature stories are expected on Dos Lagos in the *Robb Report* summer 2012, on Easter Island in *The Atlantic* fall 2012 and in other outlets.

For both group and individual press trips noted above, significant time was spent by both TC and the agency going back and forth, composing memos, attempting to gain LAN's assistance and reassuring journalists their flights would be secured and their trips proceed as planned.

Agency worked with Patagonia Sur/ Tartan Group on hosting *Globe and Mail* journalist, Gordon Pitts, during his stay in Santiago both in the beginning and end of his trip to Patagonia in April. Contacted several new hotels in Santiago to secure accommodations. Booked stay at LaStarria Hotel for his first two nights in Chile. Due to high season, all other hotels were booked – Tartan Group looked into paying for his stay at a hotel for the end of G. Pitt's trip.

Nancy Novogrod, editor in chief of *Travel + Leisure*

The agency (CS) offered further comments and advice on how to add value to Nancy's visit to Santiago in April – with specific "travel tips" tailored to what we know to be her interests (despite the short time she will be there). E.g., we know she loves shopping but will not want to go to boutiques (Versace, Gucci, etc.) she can visit in NY. She'd love to see the trendiest Chilean clothes, accessory boutiques, design shops or studios (that take traditional handicrafts and give them a new twist), and places the tourists are not necessarily visiting including perhaps one of the "hottest" restaurants locals are going to, before it is discovered by travelers.

Group Press Trip – Mid-March

Despite obstacles encountered on the air that continued one week prior to departure, TC finalized plans with the agency's assistance – with international and domestic air, accommodations and other arrangements put into place so the trip was able to proceed. Individual journalist needs were handled appropriately with tours and other plans as well as accommodations finalized by TC – including Tierra Patagonia and the Orly. Elyse Glickman joined the group a day late in Santiago – and Brian Major flew back to NYC on day eight while the others continued to Patagonia. Feedback from the group was positive with regards to the itinerary – with high praise for the arrangements and experiences secured by Turismo Chile and partners on the ground. Especially singled out for praise by writers: A. Saenz, Erin and others associated with Santiago Adventures including the architect who accompanied the bike tour.

- **Brian Major** – Latin America editor of *Travelpulse.com*, *Vacation Agent* and *Agent@Home* wants to visit Chile in 2012 to write several destination feature articles
- **John Oseid** – a top freelance writer whose outlets include *About.com*, *Cigar Aficionado*, *Blackbook*, *Forbes Life*, *Elite Traveler*, *Sherman's Travel*, *Huffington Post* and others
- **Joe Yogerst** – freelance writer with such outlets as *Islands*, *Sury Centro*, *DestinAsia*, *Modern Bride*, *San Diego Union-Tribune*, *Forbes*, *National Geographic Traveler* and others.
- **Elyse Glickman** – a freelancer who covers food and beverage, romance and travel for such outlets as *Jewish Exponent*, *CSQ (CSuite Quarterly)*, *The Tasting Panel*, *Tribe*, et.al.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

***Sports Illustrated* Swimsuit Edition – shoot on Easter Island**

A. Saenz was contacted by swimsuit edition editor Darcie Baum of *Sports Illustrated* – who the agency then liaised with to provide LAN Chile contacts, details on the proposed shoot for the magazine's popular swimsuit edition including in-depth breakout of return on investment, different media platforms the coverage will include and submission of all forms by CONAF to issue photo and video permits required for the late October/early November shoot on Easter Island. Explora and LAN Chile have signaled strong support for the project which will involve models and crew totaling 15 or 16 individuals. TC quickly approved the project and is playing the lead role (through A. Saenz) in liaising with CONAF for the permits.

Top Chef

The agency and A. Munoz held a conference call with Megan Kat of LAN about the project – which she endorsed enthusiastically. In March we also reviewed and responded to the spreadsheet sent by TC for use in preparing the "offer letter," discussed aspects of "the ask" with TC and what we thought necessary and scheduled a call with Diana Schmedeman of Magical Elves to discuss. At the end of March, DS informed us that the show had decided to shoot the finale episodes of season ten in the U.S. or British Columbia, Canada.

Born to Explore on ABC

Agency continued to explore prospect for the multi-episode shoot with the host and producer – as well as with A. Munoz in NY, agreeing we'd try to schedule for as late in May as possible. During her visit, host Richard Wiese asked about shooting in a private preserve (Conservacion Patagonia). Among the projects there: breeding puma. However, since there are no facilities to accommodate travelers, we were advised by TC that we would probably not be able to support the shoot inside the preserve. The agency will try to finesse Richard back to more desirable grounds in keeping with TC's mission. Both he and his producer were traveling second half of March – and we will reconnect with a conference call with them and TC after April 8.

Richard informed us recently that he is currently negotiating with the National Geographic Channel – which is seeking the rights to also broadcast the ABC show.

EVENTS

Travel + Leisure Global Bazaar

Continued discussions between T+L and TC on creating Easter Island installation for the Global Bazaar in September 2012. Met with T+L team to discuss logistics and pre-event promotion using the Moi's.

TRADE RELATIONS

Alexandra's March Visit to NYC

Scheduled and attended meetings with travel partners during A. Munoz's visit to NYC as well as meeting with agency team to discuss marketing, communications and advertising priorities.

- Meetings in regards PR/Trade include: Virtuoso, Puro.Chile, Wines of Chile, ProChile, PatagoniaSur/Tartan Group, Explora, Gnarly Bay Productions, and The Hostel Life
- Meetings in regards to advertising include: *Outside Mag*, *Saveur*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, *Travel + Leisure*, *Men's Journal*, *Afar*
- Held call with M. Kat from LAN Airlines and A. Munoz regarding all upcoming projects and support needed from LAN
- Held meeting with Gnarly Bay Productions regarding the video they created from their trip to Chile. Discussed potential opportunities for them to create additional videos, own rights to their video and show the video at ATTA.

TRADE RELATIONS

- Researched U.S. events and fairs for TC to consider participating in including *New York Times Travel Show*
- Meeting held with Cathy Mulrine of GoWay to discuss partnerships for 2012 including Toronto event in November.
- Discussions continue with LATOUR to run a co-op program and travel agent roadshow (Week of November 5th)

Coop Programs

Agency followed up with Travel Impressions on the conference call, and the product development manager for Latin America participated in the Wine Tour of Chile. TI is now putting their Chile program together for 2013 and is interested in developing a co-op campaign to promote it. They will submit a proposal shortly.

FAM Trip-Wines of Chile

Agency continued working with Gail Thornton to finalize arrangements for the FAM trip. Unfortunately one of the TO's dropped out the day before the trip departed. The feedback from the TO's who did participate has been very positive.

Virtuoso

Continued discussions with Virtuoso regarding the 2012 program. Turismo Chile confirmed that the budget for the Virtuoso 2012 marketing program should not exceed \$100,000. Program is being revised accordingly.

ATTA

Held conference call regarding TC's sponsorship at ATTA including hosting the cocktail reception. Considered partnerships with outdoor brands such as Eddie Bauer, Outdoor Research and Teva. Eddie Bauer is interested in participating in a major promotion with TC, but will have to delay due to management changes at the company.

ADVERTISING

- Developed proposal and present ideas with regard to additional placements for The View Magazine
- Continued to refine paid advertising media program for 2012
- Meeting with A. Munoz to review advertising plan
- Finalized media program, including creative decisions with A. Munoz (*Men's Journal*, *Outside* and *Saveur*)
- Provided input into, review, revise and approve advertorial for *Outside Magazine* (June edition)
- Developed version of advertising plan for A. Munoz's meeting with LAN

CLIENT RELATIONS

- Participated in calls with Turismo Chile and other execs
- Revised budgets including Gantt chart format and sent to TC
- Liaised with TC partners and individual public relations teams
 - The agency liaised with Lanny Grossman, PR for The Singular, Patagonia, about the prospect of TC supporting or adding writers to a LAN Chile trip in April – although it was unclear if the trip was proceeding or if the budget exists for TC to assist.
 - Continued to liaise with Kristina Schreck on behalf of James Sturz and Paula de la Cruz (for Hangarao and The Aubrey).
 - Filled in Maureen Poschman about the media who will be hosted at Tierra Patagonia in March as arranged by A. Saenz.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Reached out to museums around U.S. relevant to mining and interactive/children's museums to gauge interest in receiving donation of miner's pod.
- Assisted P. Norwood, VP Publisher for *Travel + Leisure*, on her flights for her trip to Chile.



**Turismo Chile Activity Report
Public Relations Program
May 2012**

MEDIA RELATIONS

PRESS RELEASES

- Researched and drafted "Turismo Chile Offers A Second Chance on the Slopes with 2012 Ski Season Offerings"
- Upcoming releases planned include:
 - Announcement of new Turismo Chile company and new North America marketing manager

PRESS TRIPS / MEDIA VISITS

SOB created a media "wishlist" shared with LAN which included target media for upcoming press trips. Group press trips include:

- **Santiago, Valparaiso and Atacama – August 20-28, 2012**

SOB reached out to media to determine interest and is awaiting further details to secure publications including:

- FathomAway.com
- Men's Fitness
- Austin-American Statesman
- Frommers.com
- Blackbook

- **Santiago, Valparaiso and Patagonia – October 16-24, 2012**

SOB reached out to media to determine interest and is awaiting further details to secure publications including:

- Brides
- Upscale Magazine
- Bergen Record

- **Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition Photo Shoot**

SOB continued to liaise with TC and SI about the upcoming shoot, obtaining permits for Easter Island, and the itinerary.

EVENTS

- **Wines of Chile Event, June 12**

SOB coordinated with Wines of Chile to have Turismo Chile represented at the event with brochures, and attended the event for both the trade and consumer tastings.

- **Araucania Travel Agent and Media Events, June 13 and 14**

- SOB created and distributed media and trade invite and secured 64 agents and 52 media for the events
- SOB also coordinated and accompanied in-person interviews for Alexandra and Sebastian with *Conde Nast Traveler* and *Food & Wine* as they were unable to attend the event.
- SOB coordinated the delivery of Araucania handicrafts and press materials prior to events to be displayed throughout Puro Chile.
- SOB reviewed Araucania presentation and worked with Sebastian prior to the event.
- SOB continues to follow up and provide information for all attendees and those unable to attend.
- Created Turismo Chile press kit highlighting all regions and Araucania in advance of the events.

- **Travel + Leisure Global Bazaar, September 28-30**

- SOB continues to liaise with T+L contacts to discuss construction of the Mois and other logistics.

TRADE RELATIONS

- **West Coast Roadshow**

- Agency provided details complete with itinerary and pricing for West Coast roadshow.
- **Luxury Travel Expo**
 - At the client's request, SOB looked into details and participation in the Luxury Travel Expo for consideration.
- **Recommend Sales Training**
 - Agency met with Recommend publisher to determine and evaluate Turismo Chile training program for agents.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Obtained estimates for removal of miners pod from Puro Chile. Researched mining museums who might be interested and obtained pricing estimates for shipping.

ONGOING

- Conference calls with the Turismo Chile team with agendas and recaps
- Monthly PDF of clips

Turismo Chile program (US) revised 7.20.12

	Cost to Turismo Chile	Value	Hard Dollar Contributions
Savoir			
3 Full Page Ads	\$68,889	\$141,117	
Issue	Space Close	Material Close	
June / July (creative: PATAGONIA fishing)	BOOKED 4/10/2012	PROVIDED 5/1/2012	
Aug / Sept (ATACAMA food & wine)	BOOKED 6/8/2012	PROVIDED 6/15/2012	
October (Creative TBD)	BOOKED 7/20/2012	26-Jul	
Bonus 2x Full Page Ad	None	\$47,039	\$47,039
One Custom Virtuoso Itinerary	None	\$20,000	\$20,000
Two Custom Advertorial Creations (to be used within purchased Full Page Units)	None	\$15,000	\$15,000
One custom email to SAVEUR Travel Advisory Board	None	\$1,000	\$1,000
One In-Book and Online MENU Listing	None	\$11,000	\$11,000
2 Reader Service Listings	None	\$6,000	\$6,000
1 Custom Email Blast - to 155,937 subscribers	None	\$13,255	\$13,255
500,000 ROS impressions on Savour.com	None	\$10,000	\$10,000
PROGRAM TOTAL	\$68,889	\$264,411	\$123,294
	Value / Cost ratio		3.84

Men's Journal			
3 Full Page Ads	\$98,889	\$320,445	
Issue	Space Close	Material Close	
June (creative: PATAGONIA fishing)	BOOKED 3/27/2012	PROVIDED 4/5/2012	
September (New ATACAMA)	BOOKED 6/8/2012	PROVIDED 7/19/2012	
October (creative Easter Island)	BOOKED 7/20/2012	7-Aug	
One 1/3 page advertorial in October	None	\$35,605	\$35,605
3 x Custom email blasts (25,000 subscribers each email)	None	\$18,750	\$18,750
Custom production of emails (3x)	None	\$9,000	\$9,000
Online program impressions - 1m	\$15,556	\$28,000	\$14,000
PROGRAM TOTAL	\$114,445	\$411,800	\$77,355
	Value / Cost ratio		3.60

Outside			
3 Full Page Ads	\$100,000	\$285,000	
Issue	Space Close	Material Close	
June (creative: ATACAMA horseback)	BOOKED 3/21/2012	PROVIDED 3/30/2012	
September (PATAGONIA glacier)	BOOKED 6/8/2012	PROVIDED 6/29/2012	
October (creative Easter Island)	BOOKED 7/16/2012	26-Jul	
3 Full Page advertorial units ('Perfect Days' custom units)	None	\$285,000	\$285,000
Production & design of custom units	None	\$30,000	\$30,000
Targeted travel channel and ROS units August - October (1.6m impressions)	\$22,222	\$36,000	\$13,778
2 x Email blast to 60,000 opt-ins	None	\$15,000	\$15,000
PROGRAM TOTAL	\$122,222	\$651,000	\$343,778
	Value / Cost ratio		5.33

Travel+Leisure (Global Bazaar Package)			
3 x single sheet inserts (creative supplied by Chile, T+L to print)	\$194,444	\$418,827	\$50,000
Selected distribution: NY, CA, FL and DC (291,054 total circulation)			
Issue	Space Close	Material Close	
September (creative: PATAGONIA kayak)	BOOKED 5/4/2012	PROVIDED 6/29/2012	
October (Easter Island)	BOOKED 7/20/2012	27-Jul	
November (Santiago / Wine region)	26-Jul	28-Aug	
Printing of 873,162 inserts	None	-	-
Development of itinerary (A&K) and full page advertorial (reverse of insert)	None	-	-
2.2m geo - and Latin American content- targeted impressions on T+L.com	None	-	-
E-blast to 50,000 T&L marketing database	None	-	-
Hot Deals newsletter(x2) - package featured to 163,000 opt-in readers	None	-	-
Travel Agent Outreach Newsletter: 1 page advertorial in 3 issues, and 1/4 page ad in 1 issue	None	-	-
PROGRAM TOTAL	\$194,444	\$418,827	\$50,000
	Value / Cost ratio		2.15

Virtuoso Life			
1 x Full page ad + 1 x Double page spread			
Issue	Space Close	Material Close	
September / October (ATACAMA food & wine)	n/a	PROVIDED 6/29/2012	
September Destination Guide South America, Mexico & Caribbean (PATAGONIA double page)	n/a	PROVIDED 6/29/2012	n/a
	n/a	n/a	n/a

TOTALS	\$500,000	\$1,481,627	\$471,333
	Value / Cost ratio		2.96

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INSPIRATION**
BY ARYSEN

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Chilean Patagonia occupies a privileged location with mountains, rivers, and some of the best fly fishing in the world. Almost 1,000 miles of riverbanks are virtually untouched by man - and ideal for casting after rainbow trout and local fario. Attractive offers are just as easy to catch! Experience it with LAN.

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TOUCH THE DRIEST PLACE ON EARTH

Valle de la Muerte is also known as Mars Valley, which makes sense, since its soil is similar to that of Mars. To feel the dryness of this place is like traveling to another world. Experience it yourself with LAN.

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Atacama Desert
**SPORTS
ADVENTURE**

Valle de la Muerte

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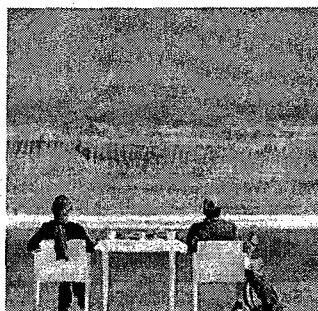
unEARTHLY

YOU CAN IMAGINE THE WILD, ALIEN BEAUTY
OF OTHER PLANETS, BUT YOU CAN'T GET THERE.
YOU CAN, HOWEVER, GET VERY CLOSE...

Stretched between the towering peaks of the Andes Mountains and the rugged crest of the Chilean Coastal Range is a land almost completely without water. Drier than any other place in the world, it is said that some parts of the Atacama Desert have never known rain. By day the desert stretches like the plains of Mars, vast and empty under a flawless blue sky. At night, lit only by starlight, it glows like the moon. Arid, ancient, and full of secrets, this desert is one of the most extraordinary, most beautiful, most *unearthly* places on earth.

Where there is water, its rarity makes it striking, gorgeous simply because it flows. The people of San Pedro de Atacama make their home on one of these bright green oases, and their thriving village—called the country's archaeological capital—will be your basecamp for exploring the altiplanos of Northern Chile.

San Pedro itself, filled with art and culture, excellent food and lively nightlife, is a little hub of cosmopolitanism in a seemingly empty expanse of desert. The local bars and restaurants, from Café Adobe to the Club de Vino

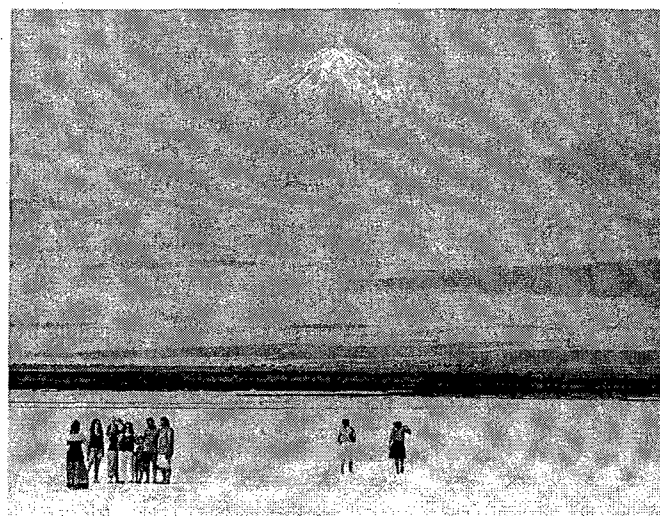
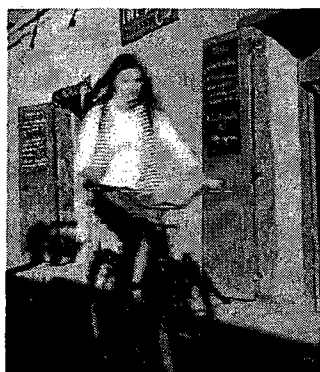


Etnico, offer their own kind of oases: a refreshing wash of music, cold beer, and Chilean wine after a long day of exploring.

And there is much to explore. The desert, uniform only in its bone-dry vastness, offers a dizzying variety of natural sculpture, wind-shaped dunes, lagoons as blue as the unalloyed sky, geysers, volcanic craters and cauldrons, and mysterious shapes of rock silhouetted black against the stars. But of all the things you might explore, there are a few elements you must not miss:

1. WATER

High above the desert, El Tatio Geysers explode in white plumes of spray and steam from an unlikely shell of bare, cracked earth. At sunrise they shatter the early light into a million silver shards. Closer to San Pedro, the same geothermal unrest sends hot water into the Puritama River, creating the Termas de Puritana, natural hot springs perfect for an evening soak while the moon rises over the humped, uncanny shapes of desert rock and luminous salt. During the day you can take a mountain bike



trip south to the Chaxa lagoon, set among the dramatic volcano calderas and populated with bright flamingoes.

whispering against your skin as you ride.

2. EARTH

Some of the most otherworldly, beautiful landscapes of Northern Chile are also the starkest and driest. Go for a hike through the wild naturally carved dunes and sculptures of the Valle de la Muerte. Less than two hours from San Pedro you can visit the ruins of Tulum, a village belonging to the Atacameños almost 3,000 years ago. Or take a horseback ride through the desolate moonscape of Valle de la Luna.

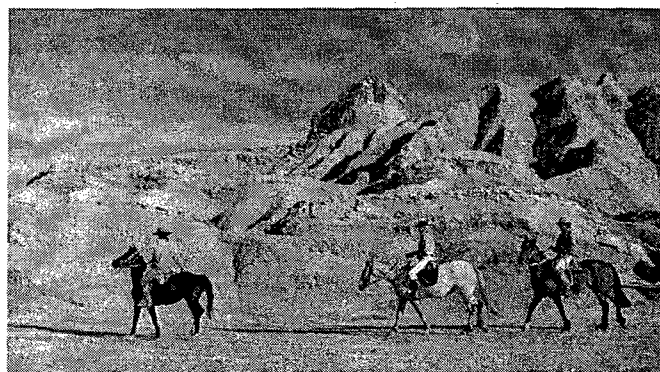
3. FIRE

If you ride at sunset, the desert will seem to catch fire around you, glowing with orange, pink, and red light, turning the stark, bone-colored land into a flickering, radiant natural coliseum. The heat fades and the desert air becomes gentle,

4. AIR

The lack of cloud cover, the clear, dry air, and the absence of artificial light makes the Atacama Desert an ideal place for looking deep into outer space. Head into the desert to see stars like you've never seen them before: billions where you'd only seen thousands, colors where you'd only seen silver, and oh so bright—falling, pulsing, and twinkling as though space itself were breathing.

The Atacama Desert is eerie, otherworldly, and exquisitely, breathtakingly beautiful. Formed of salt crystals and rare minerals, wind and the absence of water, spreading sometimes flat, sometimes rolling, and sometimes broken to the horizon, the desert of Northern Chile gives you the rare opportunity to unsettle your sense of the possible, your sense of earth. And then adventure truly begins.



WWW.CHILE.TRAVEL

**ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
2012 U.S. MEDIA CAMPAIGN PROPOSAL**

CATEGORIES/ PUBLICATIONS	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	FREQUENCY	Q1 & Q2 COST	Q3 & Q4 COST	TOTAL COST	TOTAL VALUE	NEGOTIATED SAVINGS
CONSUMER MAGAZINES/WEBSITES																		
BRIDAL																		
Martha Stewart Weddings & MarthaStewartWeddings.com																		
Circulation: 220,883																		
Unique Visitors Per Month: 2.8 million																		
Full page ad Cost: \$15,882.35		IO Spring			IO Summer			IO Fall			IO Winter		4	\$31,764.70	\$31,764.70	\$63,529.40	\$159,200.00	\$95,670.60
Destination Wedding Full Page ad \$15,882.35											IO Destination Weddings Issue		1	\$0.00	\$15,882.35	\$15,882.35	\$39,800.00	\$23,917.65
Honeymoon Center Banners 300x250 and 728x90 banners 500,000 impressions Cost Per Month: \$882.45			\$882.45	\$882.45	\$882.45	\$882.45	\$882.45	IO \$882.45	\$882.45	\$882.45	\$882.45	\$882.45	10 months	\$3,529.80	\$5,294.70	\$8,824.50	\$16,176.47	\$7,351.97
Value Added Units:																		
- Full page advertorial with each full page ad in 5 issues		Spring			Summer		July	Fall			Winter / Destination Weddings Issues		5	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$199,000.00	\$199,000.00
- 4 Digital Resource buttons (125x125), 2 mo.											December		2 months	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,400.00	\$24,400.00
- Gift Bag sampling at Wedding Party NYC											Date TBD		1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
- Wedding Essentials in-book and online lead generation with each ad		Spring			Summer			Fall			Winter / Destination Weddings Issues		5	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$37,500.00	\$37,500.00
- MRI Starch report: SVG ad performance								Fall			Winter		1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
- Microsoft Tag Promotion								Fall					1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Cost: \$0.00																		
DIVING																		
Sport Diver & SportDiver.com & ScubaDiving.com																		
Circulation: 175,000																		
Unique Visitors Per Month: 133,000																		
ScubaDiving Custom e-newsletter 70,000 subscribers Cost: \$5,223.53				IO 12-Apr	IO 2-May								1	\$5,223.53	\$0.00	\$5,223.53	\$9,729.41	\$4,505.88
SportDiver Custom e-newsletter 70,000 subscribers Cost: \$5,637.65				IO 12-Apr	IO 2-May								1	\$5,637.65	\$0.00	\$5,637.65	\$10,500.00	\$4,862.35
3 month run-of-site 728x90 on ScubaDiving Cost: \$2,925.88				IO April 1-June 30	IO April 1-June 30								3 months	\$2,925.88	\$0.00	\$2,925.88	\$5,452.94	\$2,527.06
3 month run-of-site 300x250 on SportDiver Cost: \$3,301.18				IO April 1-June 30	IO April 1-June 30								3 months	\$3,301.18	\$0.00	\$3,301.18	\$6,229.41	\$2,928.23
4-page Dive Guide with 5,000 reprints Cost: \$34,117.65						IO June Issue							1	\$34,117.65	\$0.00	\$34,117.65	\$126,000.00	\$91,882.35
Value Added Units:																		
- Travel Deal Listing, 3 months													3 months	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$935.29	\$935.29
- 12 month basic brand channel on sites Cost: \$0.00													12 months	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,825.00	\$14,825.00
Dive Yachting / DYMag.com																		
Circulation: 100,000																		
Unique Visitors Per Month: 7,915																		
1/2 page 4-color ad Cost: \$4,990.00			IO \$4,990.00	IO \$4,990.00	IO \$4,990.00	IO \$4,990.00			IO \$4,990.00	IO \$4,990.00			6	\$19,960.00	\$9,980.00	\$29,940.00	\$32,490.00	\$2,550.00
Value Added Units:																		
- 1/2 page 4-color ad											IO \$0.00	IO \$0.00	2	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,830.00	\$10,830.00
- All print ads featured in e-zine online version													8	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
SAILING																		
SAIL / SailMagazine.com																		
Circulation: 102,000																		
Unique Visitors Per Month: 45,000																		
1/2 page print ad Cost: \$4,705.88					IO \$4,705.88			IO \$4,705.88	IO \$4,705.88	IO \$4,705.88			4	\$4,705.88	\$14,117.64	\$18,823.52	\$30,280.00	\$11,456.48
Great Escape Contest 750,000 impressions Cost: \$4,117.65								IO \$4,117.65					3 months	\$0.00	\$4,117.65	\$4,117.65	\$22,060.00	\$17,942.35
E-blast (Promotion for Contest) 80,000 subscribers Cost: \$0.00								DATE TBD \$0.00	DATE TBD \$0.00	DATE TBD \$0.00			3	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,117.65	\$14,117.65
300x250 run-of-site banners, 9 mo. Cost per month: \$905.88					IO \$905.88	IO \$905.88	IO \$905.88	IO \$905.88	IO \$905.88	IO \$905.88	IO \$905.88	IO \$905.88	9 months	\$2,717.64	\$5,435.28	\$8,152.92	\$11,648.06	\$3,495.14
728x90 run-of-site banners, 9 mo. Cost per month: \$776.47					IO \$776.47	IO \$776.47	IO \$776.47	IO \$776.47	IO \$776.47	IO \$776.47	IO \$776.47	IO \$776.47	9 months	\$2,329.41	\$4,658.82	\$6,988.23	\$10,481.35	\$3,494.12
E-newsletter ad (6 paid, 1 bonus free) Cost Per Issue: \$1,117.65					IO \$1,117.65	IO \$1,117.65	IO \$1,117.65	IO \$1,117.65	IO \$1,117.65	IO \$1,117.65	IO \$1,117.65	IO \$1,117.65	7	\$2,335.30	\$4,470.60	\$6,705.90	\$10,294.12	\$3,588.22
Charter Sponsor Tile banner ad, 9 mo. Cost per month: \$282.35					IO \$282.35	IO \$282.35	IO \$282.35	IO \$282.35	IO \$282.35	IO \$282.35	IO \$282.35	IO \$282.35	9 months	\$847.05	\$1,694.10	\$2,541.15	\$6,342.94	\$3,801.79
SAILfeed Blogsite Co-Sponsorship 200,000 impressions																		
- 300x250 and 728x90 ads on all pages																		
- Mentions in all SAILfeed promos (digital and print)																		
- SVG blog included on site (via RSS feed or direct post)																		
Cost per month: \$1,676.47								IO \$1,676.47	IO \$1,676.47	IO \$1,676.47	IO \$1,676.47	IO \$1,676.47	6 months	\$0.00	\$10,058.82	\$10,058.82	\$11,294.12	\$1,235.30

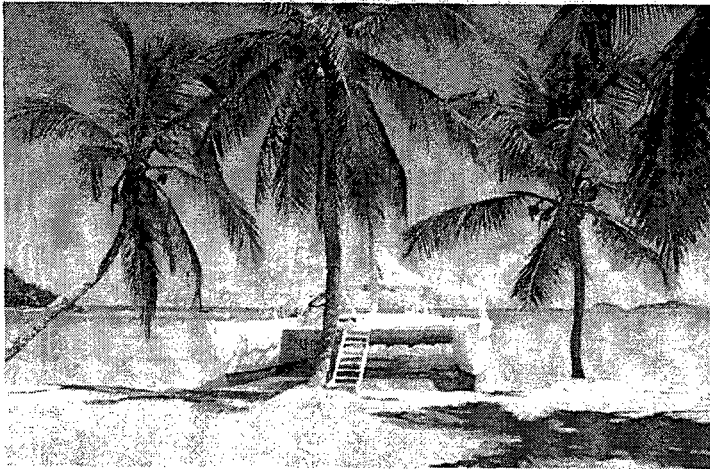
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Martha Stewart Weddings

Spring Full Page Advertorial & Full Page Ad

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*experience
and explore*

the islands of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

With 32 islands and cays to choose from, St. Vincent and the Grenadines is made for romance. Experience our out-of-this-world beaches and luxury private island resorts. Explore the lush greenery of the volcanic island of St. Vincent or sail around the stunning turquoise waters of the Tobago Cays. The warmth of the local people makes St. Vincent and the Grenadines the perfect spot for a wedding, honeymoon, or a romantic getaway.

A place of quiet azure waters, unspoiled forests, and stunning white sand beaches, this collection of islands and cays offers something for everyone. Qualified tour operators, charter companies, and dive shops can help you coordinate an itinerary for an unforgettable experience.



The Caribbean you're looking for

For more information about the one destination that offers 32 gorgeous Caribbean islands, visit discoverstvg.com.

Head over heels!

Fall in love with the islands that have everything.

www.discoverstvg.com

Whether you get married or have your honeymoon in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, it will be the most romantic time of your life. Enjoy great dining, beaches, sublime sailing, wonderful hotels. Call 1-800-726-1726 or visit www.discoverstvg.com.

ST. VINCENT, YOUNG ISLAND, BEQUIA, MUSTIQUE, CANOUAN, MAYREAU, TOBAGO CAYS, UNION ISLAND, PALM ISLAND AND PETIT ST. VINCENT.

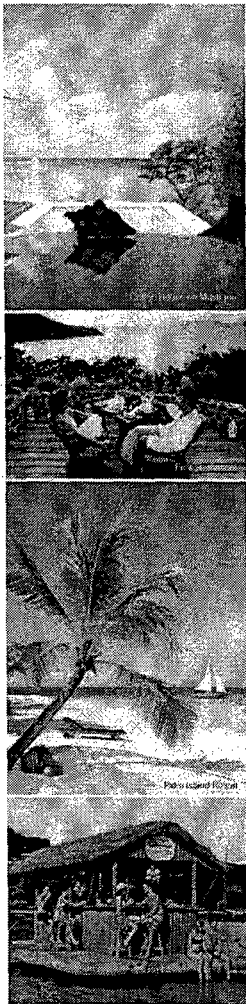
The Caribbean
you're looking for



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Summer Full Page Advertorial & Full Page Ad

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private getaways at the St. Vincent and the Grenadines

With 22 islands and cays, St. Vincent and the Grenadines is made for romance. Be off the beaten track location, look of snows, and beautiful golden sand resorts create the ultimate romantic escape for couples.

Located 200 yards off the southern coast of St. Vincent and just a three-minute water-taxi ride away, Young Island is a 30-acre private island resort that features beachfront and hillside cottages, with open air showers, a swimming pool, a private bar, and a full-service spa. On the beach and around the pool are cabanas for couples and a private bar. The resort is perfect for those who want to enjoy the island's beauty and enjoy the best of both worlds. And just off shore is the Coconut Bay, where drinks are served in the shade of palm trees.

Mustang, often referred to as the playground for the island, only offers a few full-service hotels, the 17-acre Cotton House. Accommodations feature private pools, separate pools, and full-service spas. The resort also offers a wide range of massage and spa treatments, tennis courts, a bar, a nightclub, and complimentary water sports.

Just 10 minutes by ferry from the island, you'll find the all-inclusive Palm Island Resort, with white sand beaches and 40 guest rooms on 130 acres. Here you'll find everything you need: two restaurants, water sports, a bar, and a spa, relaxing activities like tennis, basketball, and a full-service bar, romantic dining by the water, and nightly entertainment.

For the ultimate getaway, visit St. Vincent for your "PSY" island. The island is spread across 115 acres and surrounded by two miles of white sand beach. PSY is a private island resort with a full-service spa, a private bar, a swimming pool, a private bar, and a full-service spa. The resort is perfect for those who want to enjoy the island's beauty and enjoy the best of both worlds. And just off shore is the Coconut Bay, where drinks are served in the shade of palm trees.

For more information about the island's beauty and enjoy the best of both worlds, visit discoversvg.com.



The Caribbean you're seeking for

Head over heels!

Fall in love with the islands that have everything.

www.discoversvg.com

Whether you get married or have your honeymoon in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, it will be the most romantic time of your life. Enjoy great dining, beaches, water sports, and more. Call 1-800-729-1716 or visit www.discoversvg.com. ST. VINCENT, YOUNG ISLAND, BEGONIA, MUSTANG, CAROLAN, MAYRAUL, TOBAGO CAYS, UNION ISLAND, PALM ISLAND AND PETIT ST. VINCENT

The Caribbean you're looking for



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728x90 ROS Banner – Wedding

March

- Impressions: 11,980
- Click-Throughs: 6
- Click-Through Rate: 0.05%

April

- Impressions: 19,277
- Click-Throughs: 7
- Click-Through Rate: 0.04%

May

- Impressions: 15,888
- Click-Throughs: 9
- Click-Through Rate: 0.06%

June

- Impressions: 15,251
- Click-Throughs: 5
- Click-Through Rate: 0.03%



728x90 ROS Banner – Destination

March

- Impressions: 11,924
- Click-Throughs: 6
- Click-Through Rate: 0.05%

April

- Impressions: 19,329
- Click-Throughs: 9
- Click-Through Rate: 0.05%

May

- Impressions: 15,901
- Click-Throughs: 10
- Click-Through Rate: 0.06%

June

- Impressions: 15,518
- Click-Throughs: 6
- Click-Through Rate: 0.04%

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MARTHA STEWART **weddings**

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the Quest team just is working for

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Honeymoons

Where to Go Caribbean Guide Hawaii Guide Mexico Guide Planning Tips Index

Home Page > Planning & Tools > Honeymoons

Beach Honeymoon Destinations with Added Appeal

50 Years Like Print +1 Tweet Email Save Print

1 of 12

For Beach Clubs and Barhopping: Majorca, Spain

Login You need to be logged into Facebook to see your friends' recent activity.

Kathryn and Joe, San Francisco, California - Martha Stewart Weddings Inspiration 16 people recommend this.

Emily and Colby, Marfa, Texas - Martha Stewart Weddings Inspiration 22 people recommend this.

Facebook social plugin

300x250 ROS Banner – Wedding

March

- Impressions: n/a
- Click-Throughs: n/a
- Click-Through Rate: n/a

April

- Impressions: 14,544
- Click-Throughs: 11
- Click-Through Rate: 0.08%

May

- Impressions: 15,861
- Click-Throughs: 16
- Click-Through Rate: 0.10%

June

- Impressions: 15,412
- Click-Throughs: 19
- Click-Through Rate: 0.12%

The screenshot shows the Martha Stewart Weddings website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like PLANNING & TOOLS, INSPIRATION, FLOWERS, FAVORS, GAMES, FASHION & BEAUTY, JEWELRY, and COMMUNITY. Below this, there's a section for Honeymoons with a sub-header 'Where to Go' and links to Caribbean Guide, Hawaii Guide, Mexico Guide, and Planning Tips. The main content area features a large image of palm trees and a headline 'Warm Winter Getaways'. To the right of the image, there's a text block about Amanwella, Tangle, Sri Lanka, and a sidebar with a 'Head over heels' section featuring a couple and the text 'Fall in love with the islands that have everything'.

300x250 ROS Banner – Destination

March

- Impressions: 31,742
- Click-Throughs: 39
- Click-Through Rate: 0.12%

April

- Impressions: 16,224
- Click-Throughs: 20
- Click-Through Rate: 0.12%

May

- Impressions: 15,927
- Click-Throughs: 11
- Click-Through Rate: 0.07%


June

- Impressions: 15,350
- Click-Throughs: 15
- Click-Through Rate: 0.10%

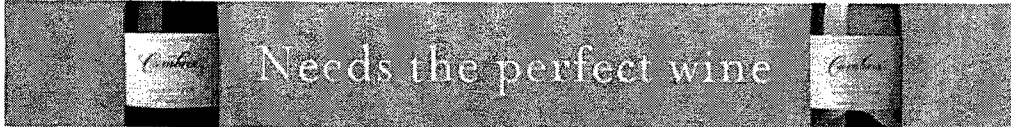
The screenshot shows the Martha Stewart Weddings website. At the top, there's a banner for Martha Stewart Living Glidden DUO Paint + Primer, available only at The Home Depot. Below this is a navigation bar with links for Planning & Tools, Inspiration, Flowers, Favors, Cakes, Fashion & Beauty, Jewelry, and Community. The main content area is titled 'Honeymoons' and features a section for 'Beach Honeymoon Destinations with Added Appeal'. This section includes a large image of a beach at sunset, social media sharing options (Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Email, Save, Print), and a sidebar with a 'Where to Go' section listing Caribbean, Hawaii, and Mexico guides. A small inset image on the right shows a couple on a beach with the text 'Unplugged. Unspoiled. And naturally, yours.' and the 'a Vincent' logo.

Special Offers – Lead Generation Added Value

May 22-July 31, 2012



Enter a search term





PLANNING & TOOLS INSPIRATION FLOWERS FAVORS CAKES FASHION & BEAUTY JEWELRY COMMUNITY



Home Page > Special Offers

Special Offers



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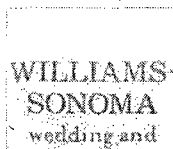

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April

- Impressions: 246,645
- Click-Throughs: 194
- Click-Through Rate: 0.08%

May

- Impressions: 69,005
- Click-Throughs: 57
- Click-Through Rate: 0.08%

June

- Impressions: 117,820
- Click-Throughs: 77
- Click-Through Rate: 0.07%

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April

- Impressions: 25,685
- Click-Throughs: 42
- Click-Through Rate: 0.16%

May

- Impressions: 27,732
- Click-Throughs: 44
- Click-Through Rate: 0.16%

June

- Impressions: 51,085
- Click-Throughs: 33
- Click-Through Rate: 0.06%



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Take the plunge in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, known as the Critter Capital of the Caribbean. Scuba dive into the famous Bat Cave, try wreck diving, or photograph an amazing variety of marine creatures. SVG's islands are a dream for scuba divers, whatever your level of experience. From easy shallow reef dives to drift dives, wreck dives and even cave dives - the choice is yours.

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 - 10 boat dives
 - Breakfast and dinner
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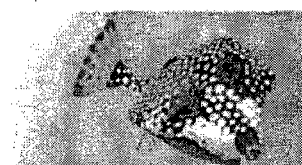
August 31, 2012 with no blackout dates person, based on double occupancy, starting at US\$1,012 and

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St. Vincent
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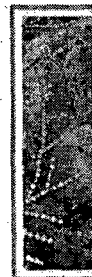
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Dive St. Vincent

Macro marine life identification has become the specialty of Dive St. Vincent and has earned it the title of "Critter Capital of the Caribbean." Located at the Young Island Dock (near where "Pirates of the Caribbean" was filmed), Dive St. Vincent operates a fleet of two boats to avoid that "cattle boat" feeling. For further info, visit www.divestvincent.com or contact Bill Tewes at 784-487-4928.

Package Details: Through December 31, 2012 with no blackout dates, accommodations at Mariners Hotel, rack price of US\$1,150 per person with double occupancy and superior rooms, and includes:

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Package Details: May 1 - October 31, 2012, accommodations at the Village Apartment. Prices are per person double occupancy and include hotel tax.

- 9 nights hotel and 12 dives for US\$710 or 18 nights hotel and 16 dives for US\$1,200
- Equipment at US\$5 per dive
- Bequia ferry dock or airport transfers
- Wireless Internet

Mustique Watersports

Mustique Watersports and Shop is situated on the beach at Endeavour Bay on the grounds of the Cotton House hotel. There is a wooden jetty directly in front of the shop, which provides easy access to the sea for swimming and snorkeling. For more information, visit www.mustique-island.com/sport/watersports or contact Brian Richards at watersports@mustique.vc or call 784-488-8486.



Package Details: April 15-July 15, 2012 and October 15-December 15, 2012, accommodations at the beautiful Cotton House, a 5-star, 13-acre private retreat with pristine white sand beaches and natural terrain (the only resort on the island). Call 784-466-4777 or visit www.cottonhouse.net for reservations.

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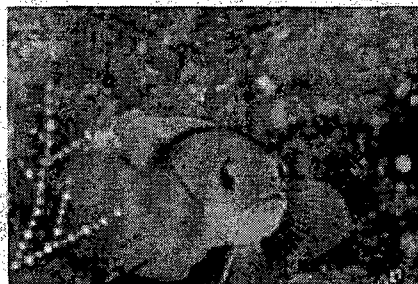
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- May: 11
- June: 7

Dive St. Vincent

26 | MAR 2012



Macro marine life identification has become the specialty of Dive St. Vincent and has earned it the title of "Critter Capital of the Caribbean." Located at the Young Island Dock (near where "Pirates of the Caribbean" was filmed), Dive St. Vincent operates a fleet of two boats to avoid that "cattle boat" feeling. For further info, visit www.divestvincent.com or contact Bill Tewes at 784-487-4928.

Price: \$1,150.00

Travel Dates: from 3/1/2012 to 12/31/2012 | **Number of Days:** 305

Related tags: St. Vincent & The Grenadines

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St. Vincent & the Grenadines: Bequia Dive Adventures

1 | MAY 2012



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Price: \$710.00

Travel Dates: from 5/1/2012 to 10/31/2012 | **Number of Days:** 10

Related tags: Dive Packages | Scuba Diving Trips | Scuba Diving Locations | St. Vincent & The Grenadines

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- Accommodations at Kings Landing Hotel
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 - o Breakfast and dinner
 - o All equipment with gear washing and storage
 - o Waterfront view and fresh water pool
 - o Airport transfers, service charge and taxes

Price: 1180
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Package Validity - End Date: December 31, 2012
Travel must be booked by: December 31, 2012
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Take the plunge in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG), the outer capital of the Caribbean. Scuba dive into the famous Bat Cave, try wreck diving, or photograph an amazing variety of marine creatures. Experience the kind of underwater diving adventures found only at the world's premier dive destinations.

SVG's islands are a dream for scuba divers; whatever your level of experience. From easy shallow reef dives to drift dives, wreck dives and even cave dives – the choice is yours. In SVG, most dive sites are just a short boat ride away from the dive shops, whether on the main island of St. Vincent or at the dive centers located in The Grenadines at Bequia, Mustique and Union Island. Many of the resort hotels here in St. Vincent & The Grenadines offer scuba diving courses, as do the dive operators themselves. Major SVG dive sites include:

- The Bat Cave, an exhilarating dive into an underwater fissure which is on the wish list of most visiting divers.
- Anchor Reef, voted one of the top 100 dive sites in the world
- Capital Wrecks, the site of three shipwrecks all in recreational dive depths, but best suited to experienced divers.
- Mayreau Gardens, an expansive coral reef formation and a great drift dive.
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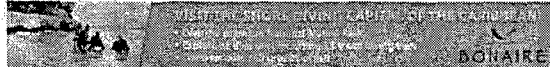
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June

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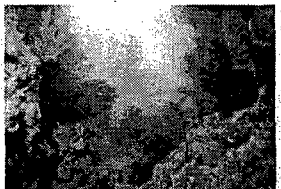



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Overview

Like chicks following the mother hen, the islands of the Grenadines scramble to form a line behind St. Vincent. Part of the Windward chain, St. Vincent and the Grenadines are best known for sailing. In fact, most of the 32 islands and cays of the Grenadine archipelago can only be reached by boat, making them perfect for seclusion seekers.

LOCATION:
Located in the Windward Islands chain in the southern Caribbean

LANGUAGE:
English, French, patois

CURRENCY:
East Caribbean Currency (US dollars widely accepted)

TIPPING:
Hotels and restaurants generally add a 10% service charge. In the bar, gratuity is appropriate.

ELECTRICITY:
230-240V, 50Hz

HIGHLIGHTS

- Splashing in the Falls of Balise, which plunge 70 feet into a rockbound pool
- Koaling around Fort Charlotte, built by the English to defend against the Caribs
- Charting a sailboat for a trip through the Grenadines

OVERVIEW

Like chicks following the mother hen, the islands of the Grenadines scramble to form a line behind St. Vincent. Part of the Windward chain, St. Vincent and the Grenadines are best known for sailing. In fact, most of the 32 islands and cays of the Grenadine archipelago can only be reached by boat, making them perfect for seclusion seekers.

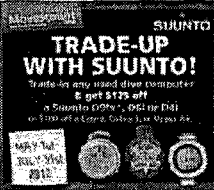
Pearl-crested St. Vincent is still evolving as a result of La Soufriere's refusal to go to sleep. Volcanoes, however, are in no danger, since the nearly 1,000-foot volcano is closely monitored. The last major eruption was in 1902.

While 133-square-mile mountainous St. Vincent has extraordinary beaches and beaches, the Grenadines—Bequa, Mayreau, Blue Lure, Palm Island, Petit St. Vincent—are blessed with white-sand beaches. They're also blessed with extreme seclusion and, as a host clientele, Mick Jagger, England's royals and Paul Bowles vacation here.

Just outside of St. Vincent's capital of Kingstown, Fort Charlotte commands imposing views. Nearby, 20 acres of botanical garden have been under cultivation since 1789. Howling hares including Yambou, yellow jays, Macaws and many of the forest punctuate the dense growth. At the park's entrance, an archaeological museum built in 1981 displays archaeological artifacts. South of Kingstown is

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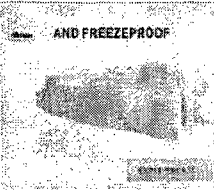


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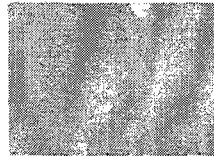
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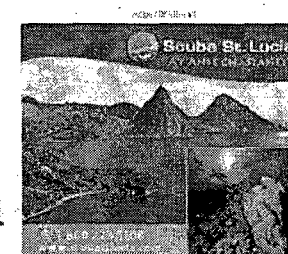
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ANSWER QUESTION ANSWER QUESTION

answer Q: Just checked the article by "Chuck Ford" in the NYB Troopers diving trip! Excellent article - we need more of this type of news - Kudos to the divers and the author! MURRAYGIRL1945
FROM: MURRAYGIRL1945 ON 8/2/2012

answer Q: My wife has a rumano dive computer that has integrated air. I want to get another dive computer that will read my air and her's, my question is will a Tusa dive computer be able to read my wife's rumano transmitter? Do they both have to be same brand?
FROM: P. B. on 8/2/2012

answer Q: What are the differences in quick disconnect fittings on BCDs? How do I order the correct one? I have a...
FROM: P. B. on 8/2/2012

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Overview

Like many island nations, the Grenadines -- Bequia, Canouan, Mayreau, Mustique, Tobago Cays, Union Island, Palm Island -- and their head maiden, St. Vincent, rose from the molten gurglings of the earth. From the air, La Soufrière, the island's still-active 4,000-foot volcano (she last erupted in 1979), towers over the north coast, her rainforest-like flanks washed by daily tropical showers. The warm sands of St. Vincent, known to contain medicinal properties, are pepper-black as a result.

An aerial view of catamarans moored on the turquoise shallows inside the Tobago Cays inner lagoon is a confirmation: yachties and bareboaters (sailors eloping for weeks at a time without a paid crew) have long known these islands. They have been a secret, word-of-mouth destination, however, among the scuba world, a place talked of usually among underwater photographers with a penchant for small critter portraits.

St. Vincent has long been pigeonholed as the "muck-diving capital of the Caribbean" but that is something of a misnomer, bringing to mind sites off Mabul or Sulawesi, islands with small reef creatures but silt-riddled waters. Along sloping walls on the St. Vincent's leeward shore, the visibility can top 100 feet thanks to the density of volcanic, granite-based sand that falls quickly when stirred.

But rest assured that no divemaster leaves the boat without a pointer tucked in or strapped to his BC to indicate the fingernail-size crabs, blennies and shrimp that a less observant diver would casually miss. Diving in St. Vincent requires a vigilant eye for the reward of seeing the uncommon and minute.

The boat ride to Anchor Reef on the lee coast brosses

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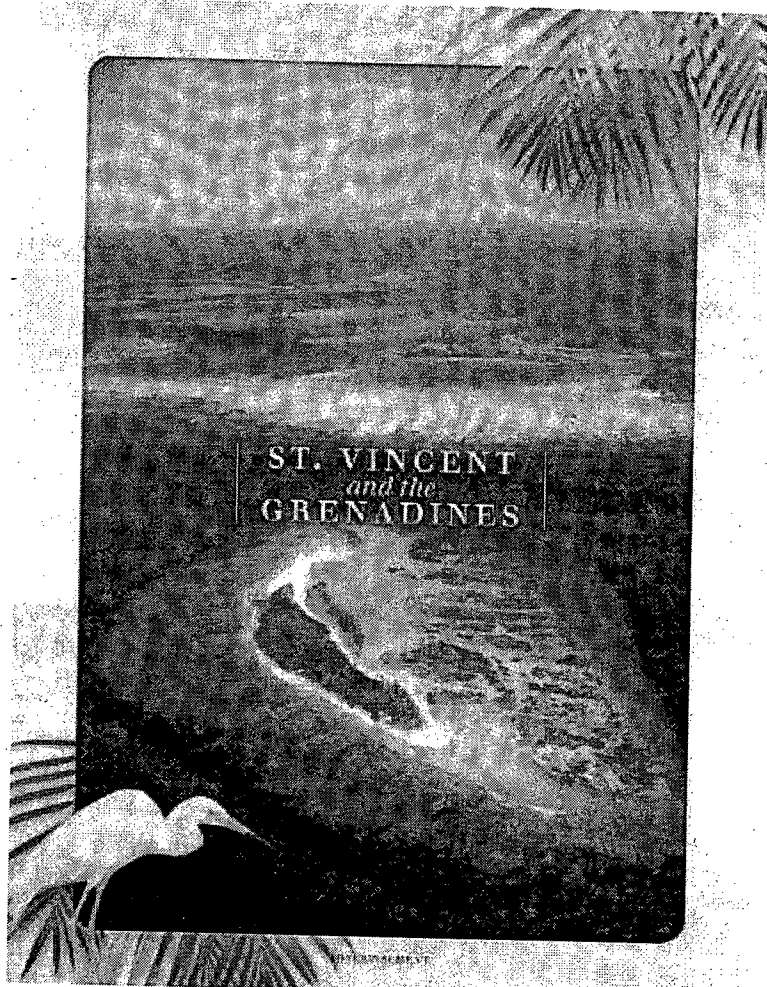
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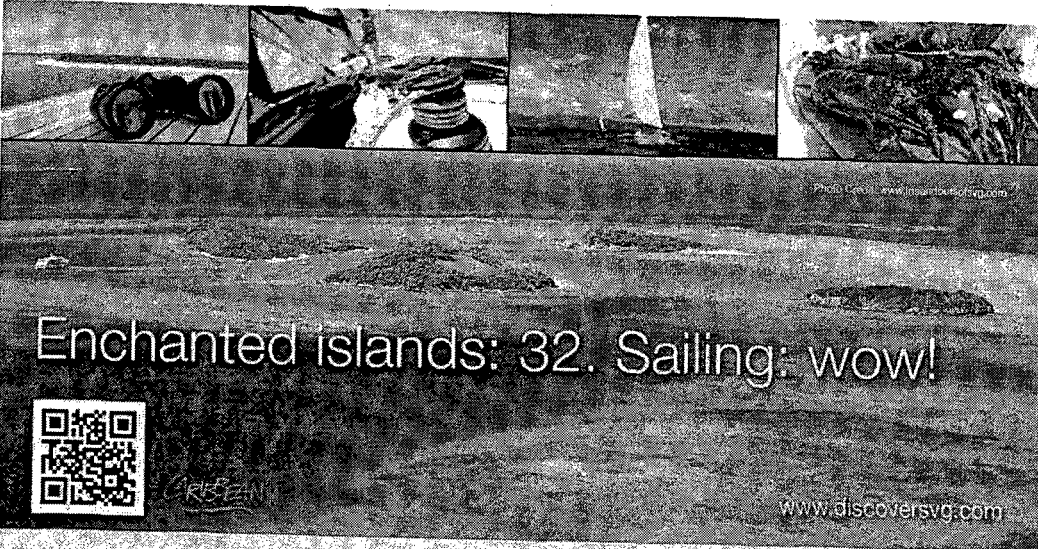
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Enchanted islands: 32. Sailing: wow!

www.discoversvg.com

Enjoy sublime sailing, great diving, beaches, wonderful hotels.
Call 1-800-729-1726 or visit www.discoversvg.com.

ST. VINCENT, YOUNG ISLAND, SEQUIA, MUSTIQUE, CANOUAN, MAYREAU,
TOBAGO CAYS, UNION ISLAND, PALM ISLAND AND PETIT ST. VINCENT

The Caribbean
you're looking for

St. Vincent
and
The Grenadines

ROS Banners – 728x90

April

- Impressions: 41,755
- Click-Throughs: 51
- Click-Through Rate: 0.12%

May

- Impressions: 103,112
- Click-Throughs: 90
- Click-Through Rate: 0.09%

June

- Impressions: 317,327
- Click-Throughs: 159
- Click-Through Rate: 0.05%

The screenshot displays the SAIL magazine website. At the top, the SAIL logo is prominent on the left, and a navigation bar on the right includes links for 'SUBSCRIBE NOW', 'SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES', 'DIGITAL EDITION', 'GIVE A GIFT SUBSCRIPTION', and 'SAIL STORE'. Below the logo, a secondary navigation bar features links for 'SAIL-BUYER'S GUIDE', 'VIDEO', 'PHOTOS', 'BOATS FOR SALE', 'MARKETPLACE', and 'SAILfeed'. A weather widget shows '55°'. The main content area is divided into several sections: a top banner for 'Enchanted Islands: 32. Sailing.wow!' with a sailboat image; a '2012 SAIL BUYER'S GUIDE' section with a 'ORDER NOW!' button; a '2012 Best Around the Buoy Blog' section for 'Best Around the Buoy Blog at Charleston Race Week 2012'; a 'Stanley Dashew's Favorite Boat of All' section with a photo of a man in a hat; a 'Favorite Weekend Cruise: Galesville, MD' section with a sailboat image; and a 'CAMPERS Complete Leg 5 of Volvo Ocean Race' section. A bottom navigation bar includes links for 'THE LATEST', 'MAGAZINE FEATURES', and 'MOST COMMENTED'. A small advertisement for 'ANDERSEN' is visible in the bottom right corner.

ROS Banners – 300x250

April

- Impressions: 29,122
- Click-Throughs: 42
- Click-Through Rate: 0.14%

May

- Impressions: 42,336
- Click-Throughs: 53
- Click-Through Rate: 0.13%

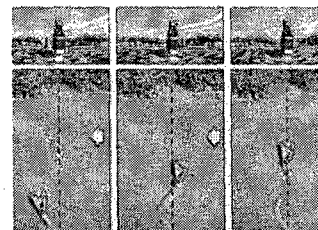
June

- Impressions: 247,336
- Click-Throughs: 138
- Click-Through Rate: 0.06%

Judging Leeway

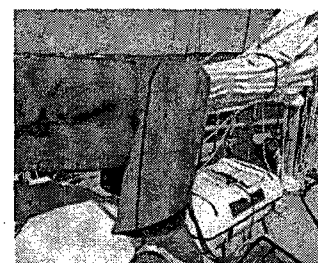
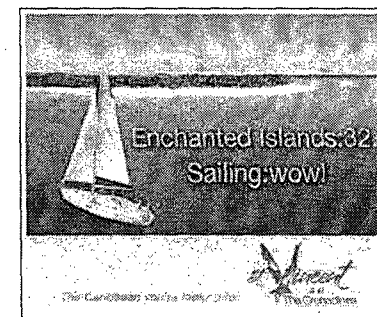
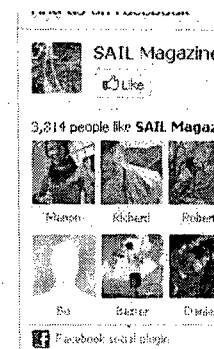
by Tom Cunliffe, Posted March 14, 2012

Any boat under way in a crosswind, whether it's a rowboat crossing a lake or a powerful cruiser reaching along the coast, will be pushed sideways to some extent. The effect is called "leeway," and even big ships are subject to it. Sometimes leeway is insignificant; often it is not.

**Sail Cover Tactics**

by Charles D. Deane, Posted March 14, 2012

Getting a sail cover on and off a mainsail is often harder than it should be. Once it's off the sail, it can be hard to tell which end goes where, and when you spread it out to check, the wind will wrestle you for control of it.

**How to Create a Deck Dam**

Charter Tile Sponsor Ad

May

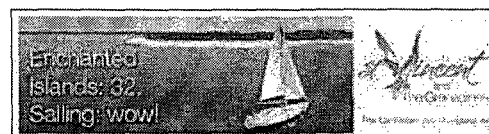
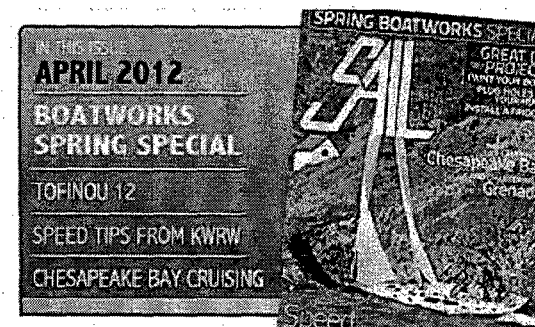
- Impressions: 21,588
- Click-Throughs: 8
- Click-Through Rate: 0.04%

June

- Impressions: 216,831
- Click-Throughs: 29
- Click-Through Rate: 0.01%

latest on SAILfeed

GROOTE BEER: Hermann Goering's Botter Jacht (Not)
 NORTHWEST PASSAGE CRUISE: Crew Wanted
 La Paz, Mexico
 Plugging away at the cockpit sole
 ENSENADA RACE: Mysterious Destruction of Aegean
 Volvo Ocean Race: Match Race To Miami
 JOHN GUIDER: Barebones Cruiser With a Camera
 "Great Parties, Lots of Girls on the Beach"
 Buy Mediocre Tools
 MORE CALIFORNIA YACHT RACING FATALITIES: And
 Deaths Averted in Melbourne to Port Fairy Race



Under Sail May

Sent to: 85,000
SVG Clicks: 63

Under Sail

From the Editors of **SAIL**

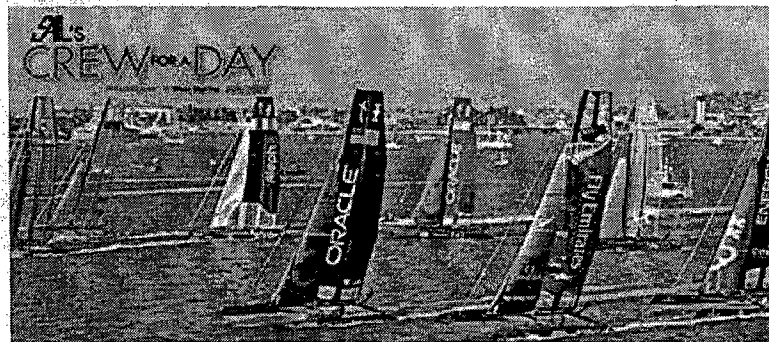
Cruising // Racing // New Boats // Gear // BoatWorks // Charter // Videos Follow SAIL on  

Enchanted Islands: 32. Sailing: wow!



Vincent
The Cruising
The Cruising's Guide to the World

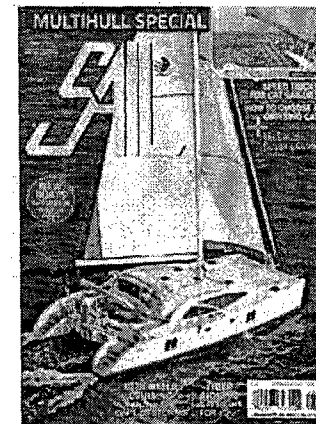
CONTEST



AMERICA'S CUP CREW FOR A DAY

The history of the America's Cup is full of great moments that have helped make the sport of sailing what it is today. What was your best sailing moment? Tell us for a chance to win a guest-racer spot on an AC45 at the America's Cup World Series in Newport, RI. **ENTER NOW**

ON NEWSSTANDS NOW



MORE ONLINE sailmagazine.com



Under Sail June

Sent to: 89,412
SVG Clicks: 47

Under Sail

From the Editors of **SAIL**

Cruising // Racing // New Boats // Gear // BoatWorks // Charter // Videos

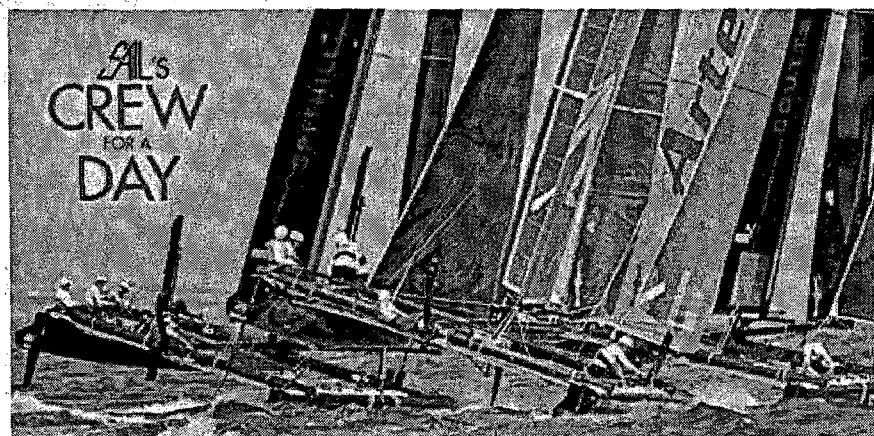
Follow SAIL on  

ADVERTISEMENT

Enchanted Islands: 32. Sailing: wow!

Enchanted
The Grandeur
The Grandeur

CONTEST




LAST CHANCE TO BE A GUEST RACER IN THE AC WORLD SERIES

ON NEWSSTANDS NOW




Afar

Full Page Ad




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The Caribbean
you're looking for



ST. VINCENT, YOUNG ISLAND, BEGGAR, MUSTIQUE, CAMOUX, MAYREAU,
TORBAGO CAYS, UNION ISLANDS, PALM ISLAND AND PETIT ST. VINCENT

Caribbean Travel & Life

300x250 Banner

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Celebration Sale

Alexandra Resort and Spa
5th Night Free at Beachfront
Turks & Caicos Resort

The Tuscany on Grace Bay
Relax in Paradise

Anse Chastanet
Summer Specials

The Rodeo Holiday LeSPORT



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The Caribbean you're looking for

Frommer's Radio Show

Travel Show – Sundays 12pm-2pm

- February 19, 2012
 - Hour 1: <http://podcast.wor710.com/wor/3324237.mp3>
 - Hour 2: <http://podcast.wor710.com/wor/3324236.mp3>
- February 26
 - Hour 1: <http://podcast.wor710.com/wor/3335019.mp3>
 - Hour 2: <http://podcast.wor710.com/wor/3335018.mp3>
- March 4
 - Hour 1: <http://podcast.wor710.com/wor/3346098.mp3>
 - Hour 2: <http://podcast.wor710.com/wor/3346094.mp3>
- March 11 (Live Broadcast)
 - Hour 1: <http://podcast.wor710.com/wor/3358377.mp3>
 - Hour 2: <http://podcast.wor710.com/wor/3358380.mp3>
- March 18
 - Hour 1: <http://podcast.wor710.com/wor/3375399.mp3>
 - Hour 2: <http://podcast.wor710.com/wor/3375398.mp3>
- March 25:
 - Hour 1: <http://podcast.wor710.com/wor/3386740.mp3>
 - Hour 2: <http://podcast.wor710.com/wor/3386703.mp3>
- April 1
 - Hour 1: <http://podcast.wor710.com/wor/3398821.mp3>
 - Hour 2: <http://podcast.wor710.com/wor/3398820.mp3>

300x250 and 960x60 Banners

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Weather: 64°F
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[TRAVEL MINUTES](#)
[PODCASTS](#)
[PAULINE'S BLOG](#)
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The Travel Show - April 22, 2012 - Hour 1
Travel writer Jason Cochran praises Disney's lavish new cruise ship The Disney Fantasy.

[SUBSCRIBE](#) [iTUNES](#)

The Travel Show - April 22, 2012 - Hour 2
Washington Post columnists discuss the rising occurrence of non-disparagement clauses being foisted on travelers by rental companies and hotels.

[SUBSCRIBE](#) [iTUNES](#)

The Travel Show - April 15, 2012 - Hour 1
It's the 100th anniversary of the Titanic disaster. Arthur and Pauline talk about two memorial cruises over the site. They also discuss current cruise news.

[SUBSCRIBE](#) [iTUNES](#)

The Travel Show - April 15, 2012 - Hour 2
Paul Bennett from Context Travel talks about the specialized walking tours his company conducts for small groups in cities worldwide.

[SUBSCRIBE](#) [iTUNES](#)

Flash Central: A New Website Aggregates Info From Jetsetter, Groupon Getaway and



NEW YORK (AP) - Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy are Mayor Michael Bloomberg's newest allies in his mission to attract more visitors to New York City. The Muppets joined Bloomberg on Friday as he announced that Jim



The CLIP
Travel Minute: April 9th, 2012





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ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
2012 CANADA MEDIA CAMPAIGN PROPOSAL

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CATEGORIES/ PUBLICATIONS	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	FREQUENCY	Q1 & Q2 COST	Q3 & Q4 COST	TOTAL COST	TOTAL VALUE	NEGOTIATED SAVINGS
CONDOPHEN ADVERTISING																		
Condophen																		
Circulation: 90,000																		
Unique Visitors Per Month: 168,000																		
Sweetstakes Program: landing page, full page contest ad, banner ad promotion																		
- Landing Page																		
- Banner Ad Promotion and website																		
- Full Page Contest Ad in Wedding Bells Fall/Winter																		
- Full Page Contest Ad in Marriage Quebec Fall/Winter																		
Cost: CAD 14,116.50																		
Advertorial Box & 300x60 banners to Advertorial (3 mo.)																		
Cost: 2,000,000 Impressions																		
Cost: CAD 3,823.50																		
Run-of-Site banners (300x250 or 728x90)																		
Cost: @ CAD 35.30 CPM																		
Cost: CAD 4,412.50																		
TorontoLife.com Run-of-Site banners (300x250 or 728x90)																		
Cost: @ CAD 35.30 CPM																		
Cost: CAD 2,647.50																		
Value Added Units:																		
- Forum section banners (300x250 or 728x90)																		
Cost: 300,000 Impressions																		
Cost: CAD 0.00																		
BATTEL																		
Canadian Yachting																		
Circulation: 28,500																		
1/2 page spread ads																		
Cost per ad: CAD 2,990.00																		
OLYMPIA																		
Olympia Magazine / Olympia.com																		
Circulation: 30,000																		
Unique Visitors Per Month: 10,000																		
Full page ads																		
Cost per ad: CAD 2,353.00																		
Banner ads, 6 mo.																		
Cost per Month: 5,000 Impressions/month																		
Cost: CAD 235.00																		
Value Added Units:																		
- Full length feature of approximately 5 pages																		
Cost: CAD 0.00																		
GENERAL DISTRIBUTION																		
Clarke & Hall / TheWeddingMail.com																		
Circulation: 2,800,000																		
Unique Visitors Per Month: 11,000,000																		
Two month campaign (Full TBD)																		
Travel section banner roadblocks geo-targeted to Ontario																		
Cost: @CAD 29.41 CPM																		
Cost: CAD 11,764.00																		
Fashion section banner roadblocks geo-targeted to Ontario																		
Cost: @CAD 29.41 CPM																		
Cost: CAD 8,823.00																		
Relationships & Love subsection sponsorship, 1 mo.																		
Cost: 450,000 Impressions																		
Cost: CAD 10,590.00																		
Spa subsection sponsorship (300x250 and 728x90), 1 mo.																		
Cost: 15,000 Impressions																		
Cost: CAD 353.00																		
Globe Life Custom Content "Authentic Experiences in SVG"																		
Cost: CAD 35,295.00																		
Two 1/4 page 4-color ad in Metro/Ontario edition of Travel (Saturday) Section																		
Cost per ad: CAD 13,900.00																		
One 1/2 page 4-color ad & 1/2 page custom content																		
Cost: CAD 29,411.00																		
Value Added Units:																		
- Globe Life run-of-section title banner (120x140), 2 mo.																		
Cost: 250,000 Impressions																		
Cost: CAD 0.00																		

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ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
2012 CANADA MEDIA CAMPAIGN PROPOSAL

SUBTOTAL - CONSUMER										\$1,060.00	\$169,191.20	\$174,171.00	\$294,529.88	\$130,356.88
TRADE ADVERTISING														
TravelWeek & TravelWeek.ca														
Circulation:	17,000													
Unique Visitors Per Month:	6,000													
E-Newsletter Subscribers:	10,000													
Two full page ads														
Cost per ad:	CAD 2,100.00													
Full page ad in yearly Weddings Away issue supplement														
Cost:	CAD 2,100.00													
Full page ad in yearly Caribbean issue supplement														
Cost:	CAD 2,100.00													
Featured This double page spread with full page ad and editorial														
Cost:	CAD 2,100.00													
Annual Blue Book Director dMdr tab														
Cost:	CAD 2,100.00													
16 weeks (6 spring & 10 fall) of leaderboard banners on TravelWeek.ca														
Cost:	CAD 3,300.00													
16 weeks (6 spring & 10 fall) of e-newsletter banner														
Cost:	CAD 3,100.00													
3 e-blasts to national list														
Cost:	CAD 1,000.00													
Destination specialist training program														
Cost:	CAD 10,000.00													
Value Added Units:														
- 1 full page print ad														
- 4 e-newsletter banners in Journal des Voyages														
- Additional 3 e-blasts to national list														
- 3 banner ads in Inside Report														
- 3 banner ads in The Hub (e-newsletter)														
Cost:	CAD 0.00													
Caribbean Travel Press & TravelPress.com														
Circulation:	25,000													
Full pg ad in Caribbean Wedding issue														
Cost:	CAD 3,550.00													
Full pg ad in Forecasting 2013														
Cost:	CAD 3,550.00													
180x50 banner ad, 5 mo.														
Cost per month: CAD 180.00														
2 TravelStart emails	28,000 subscribers													
Cost per Email:	CAD 340.00													
Weekly TravelStart Express Banner (728x90)	28,000 subscribers													
Cost per Email:	CAD 76.00													
Value Added Units:														
- Full page advertorial in Caribbean Wedding issue														
- Full page advertorial in Forecasting 2013 issue														
- Link on digital magazine issues														
Cost:	CAD 0.00													
Canadian Traveler & CanadianTraveler.com														
Circulation:	14,500													
Unique Visitors Per Month:	3,000													
Program:														
- Full Page Ad in Trade (2 issues)														
- Destination of the Week editorial feature														
- Full Page Ad in Consumer (1 issue)														
- 2 Months Banner Ad on Home Page (Trade & Consumer) and Caribbean section														
- Permanent archiving of SVG destination on CT's website														
Total Cost:	CAD 11,764.71													
SUBTOTAL - TRADE OUTREACH:										CAD 11,670.99	CAD 40,117.73	CAD 51,404.71	CAD 170,442.83	CAD 78,277.61
Total Canadian Media Expenditures:										CAD 17,330.98	CAD 204,304.73	CAD 225,575.71	CAD 460,985.71	CAD 208,634.49
Preproduction Print Allowance:												CAD 8,000.00		
Total Canadian Advertising Cost:												CAD 233,575.71		

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Canadian Yachting

½ Page Spread Ad

Enchanted islands: 32

Sailing: wow!

www.discoversvg.com

Enjoy sun time, dining, great shops, beaches, wonderful hotels. Call 416-839-5292 or visit www.discoversvg.com.

ST. VINCENT, YOUNG ISLAND, BEQUIA, MUSTIQUE, CANOUAN, MAYREAU, TOBAGO CAYS, UNION ISLAND, PALM ISLAND AND PETIT ST. VINCENT.

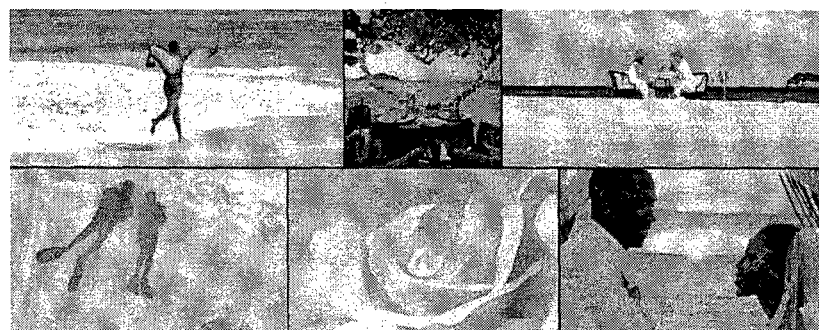
The Caribbean you're looking for



TravelWeek


Full Page Weddings Away Supplement

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Head over heels!

Fall in love with the islands
that have everything.



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Whether your clients get married or have their
honeymoon in St. Vincent and the Grenadines,
it will be the most romantic time of their lives.
They'll enjoy great dining, beaches, sublime sailing,
wonderful hotels. Call 1-415-630-9292 or visit
www.discoversvg.com.

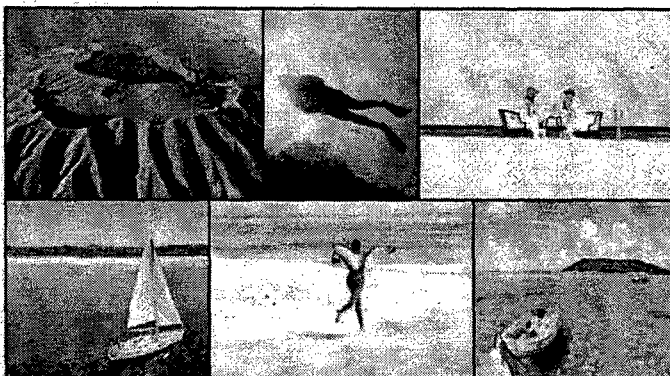
The Caribbean
you're looking for




ST. VINCENT, YOUNG ISLAND, BEQUIA, MUSTIQUE, CANOUAN, MAYREAU, TORAGO CAYS, UNION ISLAND, PALM ISLAND AND PETIT ST. VINCENT

Blue Book Divider Tab

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St. Vincent and the Grenadines is the unplugged and
Unspoiled Caribbean. Great diving, beaches, sublime sailing,
wonderful hotels. Call 1-816-630-9292
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St. Vincent & the Grenadines
ST. VINCENT, YOUNG ISLAND, BEQUIA,
MUSIQUE, GAIQUAN, MAYRAU, TORAGO CAYS,
UNION ISLAND, PALM ISLAND AND PETIT ST. VINCENT

The Caribbean you're looking for.

728x90 TravelWeek.ca Banner

April 1-31

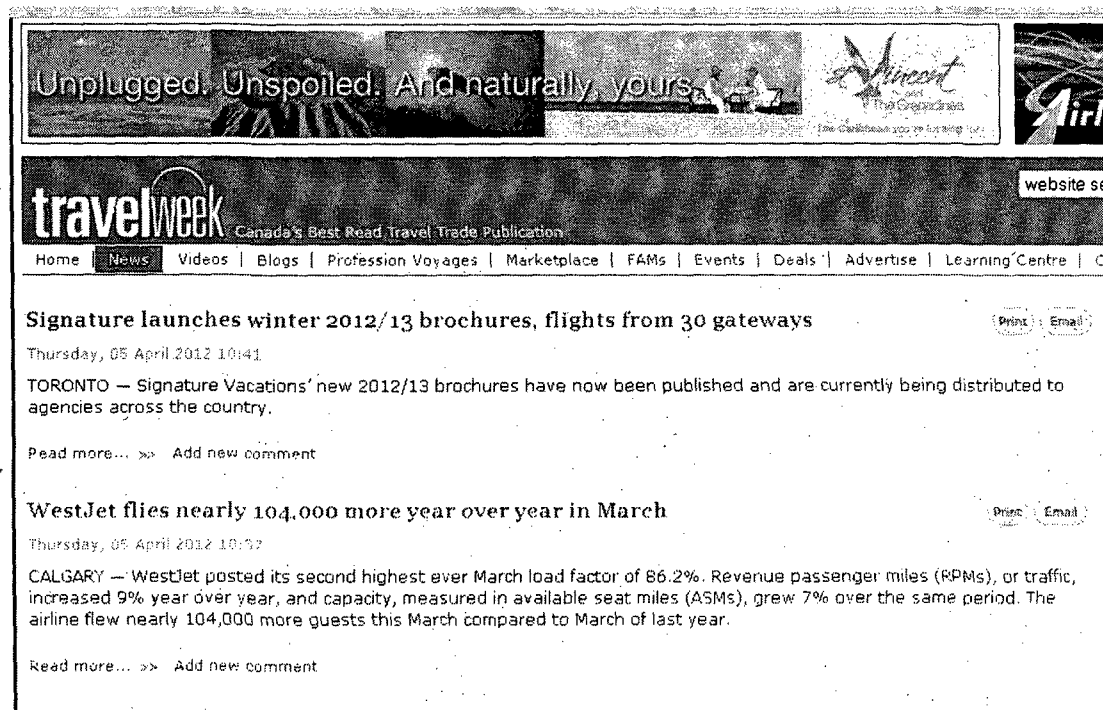
- Impressions: x

May 1-7

- Impressions: x

FALL TBD

- Impressions: x



The banner is a screenshot of the TravelWeek.ca website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Home, News, Videos, Blogs, Profession Voyages, Marketplace, FAMs, Events, Deals, Advertise, Learning Centre, and Contact. Below the navigation bar, there are two main articles. The first article is titled "Signature launches winter 2012/13 brochures, flights from 30 gateways" and is dated Thursday, 05 April 2012 10:41. The second article is titled "WestJet flies nearly 104,000 more year over year in March" and is dated Thursday, 05 April 2012 10:32. Both articles have a "Read more..." link and an "Add new comment" link. The banner also features a "website se" logo in the top right corner.

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Signature Vacations

travelweek Canada's Best Read Travel Trade Publication

Home News Videos Blogs Profession Voyages Marketplace FAMs Events Deals Advertise Learning Centre Contact

Signature launches winter 2012/13 brochures, flights from 30 gateways

Thursday, 05 April 2012 10:41

TORONTO — Signature Vacations' new 2012/13 brochures have now been published and are currently being distributed to agencies across the country.

Read more... >> Add new comment

WestJet flies nearly 104,000 more year over year in March

Thursday, 05 April 2012 10:32

CALGARY — WestJet posted its second highest ever March load factor of 86.2%. Revenue passenger miles (RPMs), or traffic, increased 9% year over year, and capacity, measured in available seat miles (ASMs), grew 7% over the same period. The airline flew nearly 104,000 more guests this March compared to March of last year.

Read more... >> Add new comment

Travel Week Online e-Newsletter Banner

Sent to Daily: xxx

April 1-30

- Open Rate: x%
- Click-through Rate: x%

May 1-7

- Open Rate: x%
- Click-through Rate: x%

Fall TBD

- Open Rate: x%
- Click-through Rate: x%

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If this e-mail does not display properly, please click here.



travelweek ONLINE

Marketplace

FREE SUBSCRIPTION

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DP: MEXICO TO MEXICO 2012 BOOK BY APR 6, 2012



Unplugged, Unplugged, and Unplugged

Client can save \$400 per couple on Sunquest Med cruise with 'No Fuel Surcharge' promotion

TORONTO — Clients can save \$400 per couple on a Sunquest Mediterranean cruise package with the tour operator's latest 'No Fuel Surcharge' promotion. Applicable to all new bookings made by April 30 for travel between June 1 and Oct. 13, this \$400 savings is in addition to the already discounted rates (up to \$1,400 per couple, including the fuel surcharge promotion) available through Sunquest's Summer Sale, also available on

Vision 2000 At Home sales up 300% year over year

TORONTO — The Vision 2000 Travel@home program has seen a year over year leap of 300% in sales by its home-based agents. According to Lynda Sinclair, general manager. Read more...

Ready for take-off — Berlin's new airport BER to open June 3

BERLIN — On June 3, one chapter in Berlin's aviation history will draw to a close and another one will begin when the German capital's new airport Berlin Brandenburg BER opens, and the two remaining ... Read more...

Porter confirms third year of summer service to Tremblant

TORONTO — Porter Airlines is confirming a third year of summer service to Mont Tremblant with four weekly flights between Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport

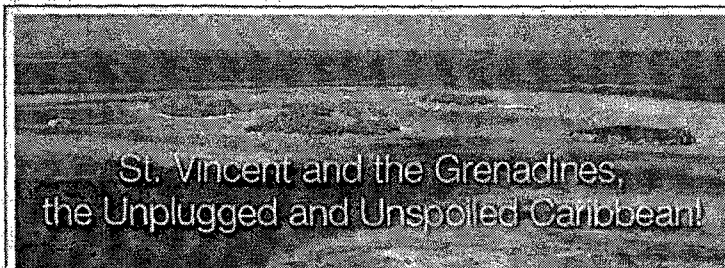
4/17 E-Blast (General Destination Focus)

Subject Line: St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the Unplugged and Unspoiled Caribbean

Open Rate: XX%

Click-through Rate: XX%

travelweek eblast



A string of 32 islands in the southern Caribbean, St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) is a place of quiet azure waters, unspoiled forests, and stunning white sand beaches. It is a destination for those seeking a truly off the beaten path getaway.

With its casual, unpretentious authenticity, friendly people and deep wealth of natural attractions, this collection of islands and cays is a life-renewing experience. From the imposing La Soufriere volcano to the oldest botanical gardens in the Western Hemisphere, the main island of St. Vincent has so much to offer. South of St. Vincent, the Grenadines are strung across 40 miles of typically tranquil waters. Only eight of these islands are inhabited: Young Island, Bequia, Mustique, Canouan, Mayreau, Union Island, Palm Island and Petit St. Vincent. For all their charming remoteness, these islands have something for everyone – the family traveler, the romance-seeker, or the adventurous explorer. Another must-see is the Tobago Cays, a family of five sibling islands protected by a huge horseshoe reef.

You'll find a qualified lineup of tour operators, charter companies and dive shops ready to help coordinate itineraries for your clients. When it comes to accommodations, SVG extends a welcoming hand of inborn hospitality to just about every taste and wallet, from intimate-sized, family-owned hotels and boutique properties to private island resorts.

To learn more, visit www.discoversvg.com.



St. Vincent
and
The Grenadines

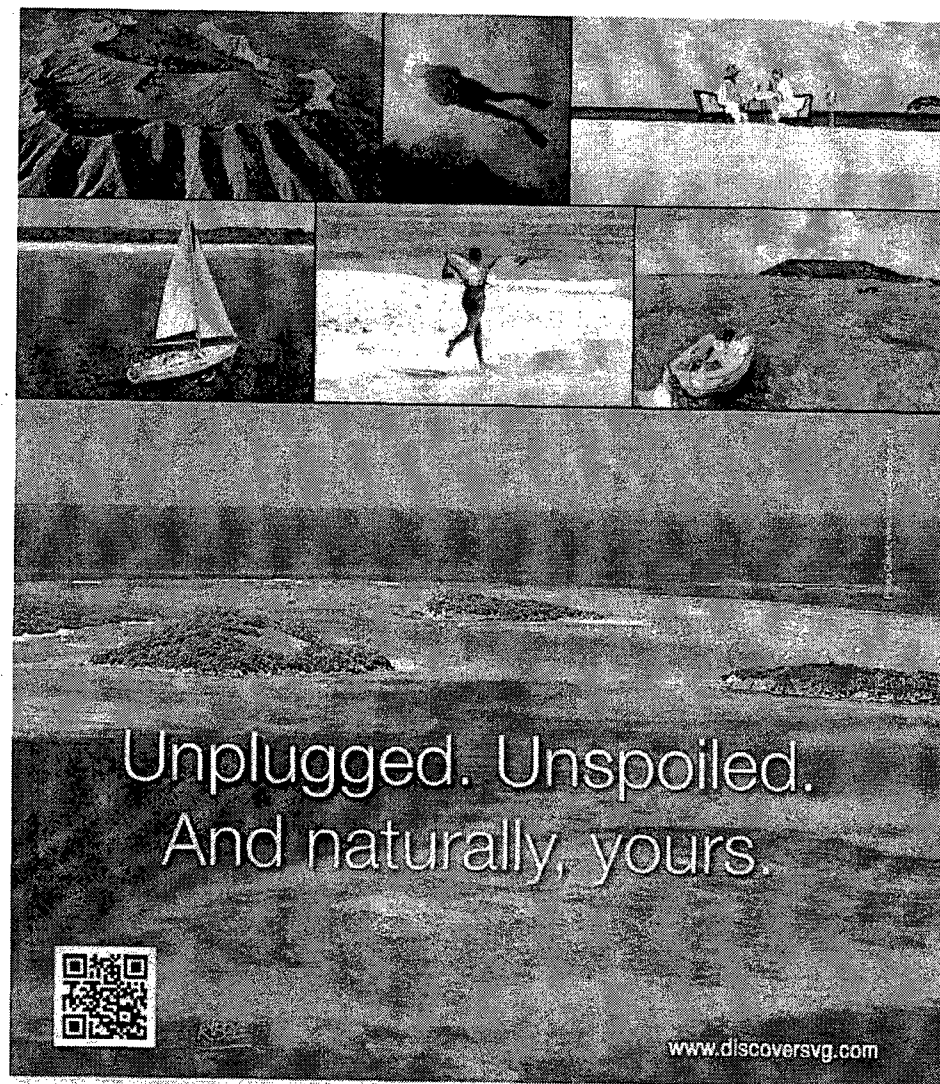
The Caribbean you're looking for

St. Vincent, Young Island, Bequia, Mustique, Canouan, Mayreau, Tobago Cays, Union Island, Palm Island and Petit St. Vincent

Canadian Traveller

Full Page Ad

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